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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

SINCE the great debate there has naturally been a Parliamentary lull. It is threatened, however, with disturbance on the 26th, when Lord Ellenborough proposes to call attention to the changes which have taken place in foreign affairs since the meeting of Parliament. The most remarkable change which has occurred has been in Denmark, which has been dismembered; but this has been necessarily accompanied by changes in the relations between the great Powers of Europe, from which important consequences may yet proceed. When Parliament met, if the alliance between England, France, and Austria against Russia had already come to an end, the alliance between Austria, Prussia, and Russia against all who may venture to interfere in matters which in the opinion of these Powers concern them alone, had not been formed. Thus Russia and Prussia—united before, and always sure to be united on important questions—have gained an ally; Austria has substituted the alliance of Russia and Prussia for that of England and France; while England and France find themselves separated not only from Austria, but also from one another. If this be "progress," it is progress the wrong way. The despotic Powers understand one another thoroughly, and have identical views in respect to Poland and Denmark. England and France, on the other hand, are not agreed at all, and the French policy with regard to Poland is not the English, while the English policy with regard to Denmark is not the French. England is isolated, but she, it is often said, has no interests on the Continent. France, however, is also isolated, and it

cannot be maintained that anything which takes place on the Continent is indifferent to her. [The danger, then, to England is that France, not wishing her isolation to continue, may make terms with the three despotic Powers. That Prussia would be ready to strike a bargain with France at the expense of the Rhinish population has long been surmised.

The late discussion on the conduct of Government in connection with Danish affairs continues to furnish useful material to Parliamentary critics of all shades of opinion. The strength of the Government chiefly, no doubt, consists in the weakness of its enemies, and in the belief of a majority of the House of Commons that if Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell have managed matters badly, Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli would have managed them worse, or would do so now, had they the chance. It is felt that a Whig Government has brought the country into disgrace, but it is feared that a Conservative one might bring it into danger. Thus, to replace the former by the latter would be like setting a house on fire in order to clear it of discreditable occupants. Such was evidently the opinion of the Liberal members not in office who distinguished themselves by their vigorous attacks on the party they habitually defend; and such we take to be the opinion of Liberals in general, and also of a small number of Conservatives. The Government was punished all round; but, after it had been made to run the gauntlet, its life was spared—not that it was considered worthy to live, but because it was thought unsafe to destroy it. It also stands condemned, in a certain manner,

by its own supporters in the press, for, though its conduct is defended, it is at the same time warned not to repeat it, and we were promised that for the future, in order to avoid getting this country into scrapes on the Continent, the Government will not interfere in Continental affairs at all. This would, of course, be better than injudicious interference; but England is a European Power, and total abstention from the affairs of Europe would not be permitted to us even if we really desired it. Besides, as—if the case should ever present itself—we mean to defend ourselves against invasion, we may as well guard beforehand against all combinations on the Continent that would render an invasion of England practicable, or that would place any Power or Powers in a position to threaten our shores with a view to extorting concessions from us elsewhere. In spite of some imprudent wars, the English, when they have fought on the Continent, have generally done so in order to avoid having to fight at a later period in the Channel or on their own coasts.

The most valuable literary support that the Government has received has been from Mr. John Stuart Mill, whose theory that a civilised Power has a right to interfere and protest against wrongs even though it may have no intention to redress them by the sword, will not find many opponents in England. Mr. Mill, however, errs greatly in supposing that Lord Russell did no more than this in his celebrated negotiations with Prince Gortschakoff on the subject of Poland. He interfered, on the basis of a treaty, in the regular



THE RIFLE-SHOOTING CONTEST AT WIMBLEDON: SHOOTING BY NIGHT FOR THE "OWL" PRIZE.

diplomatic style; and when Baron Brunnnow asked him whether he meant to fight about it, said he did not know, that that depended in a great measure on the answer he might receive to his propositions, and so on. It was not until long afterwards, when all the harm was done, when Poland had been encouraged and Russia had been irritated, that Lord Russell declared he would not, under any circumstances, go to war for Poland. Mr. Mill compares Lord Russell to the peacemaker of private life; but what should we think of a peacemaker who began his mediation by saying that he was not quite sure whether he should not punch the head of one of the contending parties? How likely that would be to bring the quarrel to a happy termination! Mr. Mill's principle is immeasurably superior, politically as well as morally, to that of absolute non-intervention; but it is not the principle on which Lord Russell acted, either in the Polish or in the Danish negotiations.

An attempt has been made to give somewhat of a religious character to the division on the great debate, though nothing of the kind was apparent in the debate itself. The Government obtained great support from the Bishops in the House of Lords, while it met with a formidable opposition from the Catholics in the House of Commons. That all the Bishops of Whig creation should have voted for the Whigs is at least not wonderful. The sudden adhesion of seventeen Catholic Liberals to the Conservative side at a critical moment was much more remarkable, and it serves to give a notion of the kind of combination that was feared by those politicians of various shades of opinion who for so long a time resisted the admission of members of the Church of Rome to equal rights with Protestants. This resistance did not arise from bigotry alone, as those who believe in the supreme enlightenment of the present generation confidently assert, but also from a belief that Catholic members of Parliament would receive and obey directions from Rome, and, on occasions when the interests of their Church seemed to be concerned, would vote, not as citizens of the United Kingdom, but as subjects of the Pope. This belief was to some extent well-founded, but it did not constitute a sufficient reason for subjecting a certain portion of our fellow-countrymen to a hardship which was felt as an injustice, and which, as the result has sufficiently shown, could be removed without the smallest danger to the State. Indeed, it is only in countries where the Roman Catholics are, or until a comparatively recent period were, subject to disabilities, that this stanch political attachment to Rome is manifested at all. It is not in France and Italy, but in Poland and Ireland, that the most fervent admirers of the Papal Government are to be found.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The peaceful solution anticipated to the Dano-German question inspires no confidence in the minds of French politicians, who consider the silence of the Cabinet of the Tuileries on the subject as somewhat ominous. It is believed that the Emperor looks with no favourable eye on the progressing negotiations, and that, however settled, he will eventually interfere.

Rumours are current in Paris that his Majesty may soon make another attempt at mediation in American affairs. A recall of French troops, to the number of 10,000, from Mexico is at once to be made.

BELGIUM.

A Royal decree, issued by the King of the Belgians, appoints the 11th of August for the elections, which are expected to get the country out of the curious Parliamentary dead-lock into which it had lately fallen.

SPAIN.

An insurrectionary movement of some kind is stated to have been projected in Madrid. The conspirators were to have obtained possession of the telegraph lines, and then announced to the provinces that a revolution had taken place in the capital, after which they would have awaited the effect of the intelligence. The Government, however, took precautions in time and frustrated the scheme. Such at least is the purport of a rather vague paragraph in a Madrid paper.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Couza has issued a proclamation announcing the results of his journey to Constantinople and expressing the gratitude of Roumania towards the Porte and the guaranteeing Powers. The Prince makes it formally known that the Powers have recognised, with some slight modifications, the change introduced by the coup-d'état of May and sanctioned by the vote of the people.

ST. DOMINGO.

Intelligence has been received at Madrid to the effect that the insurgents at St. Domingo had abandoned their position at Puerto Plata and were prepared to surrender, provided that the Spanish authorities would promise them a complete amnesty.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The people of Capetown have been much alarmed at the prospect of another Kafir war. It was reported that the Kafir chief Krelli had passed the Bashee with a large force and come to blows with the mounted police, and consequently a large force was sent to the frontier. Fortunately, the report turned out to be exaggerated, and though Krelli was irritated with certain supposed measures of the Governor and had assumed a threatening tone, it was hoped there would be no actual disturbances.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

The proposals of Denmark, addressed direct to the Courts of Berlin and Vienna, have been met on the part of Austria and Prussia by a suspension of arms on land and sea until July 31, during which period the blockade will be raised. The German Powers have added the request that Denmark will immediately send Plenipotentiaries to Vienna, in order to come to an understanding with Austria and Prussia relative to the basis of peace. It is reported that Count Molke and M. Quade will be the Danish representatives in the forthcoming negotiations, and that M. von Bismarck will proceed to Vienna on the part of Prussia.

The Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin are reported to have addressed a new circular-note to their respective representatives at Paris, London, St. Petersburg, and Stockholm, giving the following explanations relative to the position of Schleswig:—

Although the allied powers are using every effort to place Schleswig under the common administration of Austrian and Prussian commissioners, like the duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg, which form part of the Confederation, it would be premature to conclude that the incorporation of Schleswig with the confederation would be the necessary consequence of this step.

The duchy of Schleswig, in fact, in virtue of its claims to an indissoluble

union with Holstein, will partake the fate of that duchy; but this may happen without Schleswig becoming a confederate German country. The future Sovereign of the duchies will be and will remain Prince of Holstein. He may, nevertheless, like the other confederate Princes, have possessions outside the confederation.

On the subject of the probable terms of peace the *Independence Belge* says:—

Many conjectures continue to be formed in the journals, especially those of Germany, respecting the probable conditions of peace between Denmark and the great German Powers. The personal union, the plan of dividing Schleswig, the total abandonment of the duchies, and, finally, the entrance of Denmark into the Confederation, are solutions examined, discussed, and rejected by turns. If the last-named plan has found some favour at the Copenhagen Court, it meets with none either in Germany or in official regions in France. We have already stated that on two occasions M. Drouyn de Lhuys had condemned it by anticipation. The *Constitutionnel* now gives form to the observations of French diplomacy, by showing that, in face of the threatening eventualities, the difficulties and the resistance which such a plan would occasion, it is impossible to admit its existence.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* says that the German Powers have not the slightest intention of negotiating upon the basis of a personal union. He adds:—

The real programme acceptable to this Court is believed to be the following:—1, Peace will be made by the three belligerent Powers, and by them alone; 2, The basis of peace is the relinquishment of Schleswig and Holstein; 3, The cession to be made to Prussia and Austria; 4, Prussia and Austria will retain the duchies until the succession question is settled.

In the meanwhile the allies have been making the most active use of the interval preceding the suspension of hostilities. During Sunday night they took possession of the little island of Föhr, on the west coast of Schleswig. All the islands on that coast are now occupied by the allies.

Intelligence has been received from Frederickshaven stating that while General Falkenstein was planting the Austrian and Prussian flags at Skagen the Danes attempted a landing at Aalbeck and Frederickshaven. They were driven off from the first place by a body of hussars and repulsed from the latter by a couple of guns.

A proof of the ill-feeling that exists between the troops of some of the German States and of Prussia was given at Rendsburg on Monday, when the Hanoverian troops attacked the Prussian outposts, and a severe struggle took place between them. Order was with some difficulty restored by the commanders.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

Our advices from New York are to the evening of the 9th instant, and disclose a new phase in the war in Virginia. Although Grant was still before Petersburg, which he was shelling, and said to be preparing for a grand attack, General Lee felt himself so secure as to be able to detach a large force under General Ewell to invade Maryland and Pennsylvania. This force, estimated at 30,000, had advanced up the Shenandoah Valley; but the number given is probably rather under than over the mark, if it be true, as stated, that Ewell's, Breckenridge's, and Rhodes's corps are all north of the Potomac. They would make up a formidable force. The Federal accounts of the movement are very confused; but the following telegram from Baltimore, dated the 3rd, contains all that seemed to be known on the subject:—

Rumours have been circulating here all day that a large rebel force, under the command of Ewell, had attacked the Union troops at Martinsburg, and compelled the evacuation of that place. The following information in regard to the matter has been received at headquarters, based principally upon despatches from Harper's Ferry:—About daybreak this morning intelligence reached headquarters at Martinsburg to the effect that the rebels were actually approaching in three separate columns—one by the way of the turnpike towards Shepherdstown, another towards Martinsburg, not far from the line of the railroad, and the third west of it. It will be remembered that the department of the railroad is that of General Hunter, assisted by General Sigel, with Generals Kelly and Max Weber. General Kelly's force is at Cumberland, where no alarm or excitement exists.

General Sigel, on receiving this information, at once prepared to check the approach of the enemy, in order that no movable property should be destroyed. The troops were drawn up, and at five o'clock fighting commenced in the neighbourhood of Banker Hill, and continued four or five hours, during which his cavalry fell slowly back to the infantry supports.

Ascertaining that the force of the enemy was largely superior to his own, General Sigel determined to evacuate Martinsburg, which was accomplished in good order. He telegraphed the railroad company here as to the state of affairs, and all their trains and other movable property were safely moved away. Some heavy trains, filled with supplies for General Hunter, were taken to a place of safety. A force of the enemy also came by way of North Mountain, with a view, no doubt, of flanking our forces, but in this they were disappointed.

A despatch, received at five o'clock this evening, states that fighting had been going on all day near Lcetown, about ten miles from Harper's Ferry, and three miles to the left of the railroad, between a force of the enemy that was moving in the direction of the Shepherdstown Pike and the command which General Sigel had left there to occupy the place. Both forces engaged were small, and it is officially reported that our troops there had repelled successfully all attacks.

All freight and passenger trains from the west were worked successfully through last night, but no express trains for the west left Baltimore this evening. At last accounts no injury had been done to the road or bridges.

It is supposed that the invading force is the same which was sent against Hunter, who is understood to have retired into West Virginia, towards Gauley, to await the arrival of supplies. Finding that Hunter had eluded them, it is probable that the rebels are now attempting a raid into Maryland. It is thought that their strength has been greatly exaggerated and that it will dwindle down to a small raiding party, which will scarcely venture far beyond the Potomac. General Sigel has fallen back to Harper's Ferry, and holds a strong position on Maryland Heights.

There was great excitement at Hagerstown and Frederick to-day, owing to the exaggerated reports brought down by fugitives from Martinsburg.

At last accounts the Confederates were said to have occupied Frederick, Maryland. To have done this they must have crossed the Potomac west of Harper's Ferry, and thus turned the Federal position on Maryland Heights. The Federal force is said to have retired to the Monocacy, a small tributary stream of the Potomac, running in a north-westerly direction, a few miles east of Frederick.

President Lincoln had called out 30,000 militia to repel the invasion; Kentucky was placed under martial law, and the Habeas Corpus Act had been suspended.

General Wilson's losses in the recent raid are ascertained to have been between 2000 and 3000, besides all his cannon, ammunition, stores, &c. Thirteen hundred negroes whom he kidnapped during the early part of his expedition were rescued.

General Sherman, in Georgia, recovering from his repulse at Kennesaw Mountain, has made a flank movement towards Marietta, and compelled the evacuation of that city by General Johnston, who has retired towards the Chattahoochee. As the Confederates are in large force in his rear as well as in his front, General Sherman's position does not seem much, if at all, improved by this advance; though, if he desires to force a battle, he is nearer by a few miles to Atlanta than he was at the date of the previous despatches, and may possibly endeavour to engage Johnson before Generals Forrest and Taylor are in a position to reinforce him.

Memphis papers state that General Carr defeated the Confederate General Shelby near St. Charles, Arkansas, on the 27th ult., capturing 200 prisoners and several cannon. The Federal loss was 200, that of the Confederates in killed and wounded is estimated at 500. During the night Shelby was reinforced by Marmaduke, when Carr retreated. It is reported that Marmaduke and Shelby are moving for a combined attack upon Steele at Little Rock.

GENERAL NEWS.

President Lincoln had appointed the 8th of August for a day of humiliation and prayer.

Mr. Fessenden had accepted office as Secretary of the Treasury. The examination into the suppression of the *World and Journal of Commerce*, before Judge Russell, commenced on the 6th. General Dix and counsel exhibited an order from Mr. Lincoln directing the General to resist the process of the Court if necessary. The case was then adjourned until the 9th. Governor Seymour had instructed the District Attorney to enforce the laws of the State at all hazards. The Governor had ordered an immediate draught to increase the State militia to 75,000 men, in view of contingencies.

The death of Mr. Josiah Quincy is announced. Mr. Quincy was one of the fathers of the American Republic, and perhaps the last

link connecting the Americans of to-day with the age of Washington.

The sinking of the Alabama by the Kearsarge had caused great rejoicing. Regrets were expressed that the Deerhound was not also sunk for rescuing Captain Semmes. Captain Winslow had been made a Commodore in recognition of his services.

LATEST NEWS FROM RICHMOND.

An English gentleman who left Richmond on the 1st inst., having a few days previously visited Petersburg, and who, passing uninterruptedly into the Federal territory, accomplished the journey between Richmond and Queenstown in the remarkably short time of sixteen days, gives the following particulars of the military situation in and around the Confederate capital:—

The troops detached by way of the Shenandoah Valley towards Maryland consisted of the whole of Ewell's corps (late Stonewall Jackson's), under the personal command of that General, and numbered 25,000 men.

It was believed that another smaller detachment, with heavy artillery, would be, or had already been, directed towards Aquia Creek, with a view of erecting powerful batteries on the Potomac, blockading that river, and thus interrupting the water communication with Washington at the same time that Ewell's corps would destroy the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and thus cut the main line of communication with the capital.

Ewell's force was considered amply strong enough to cope with any troops which the North in its present denuded condition could oppose to it, and it was believed that as soon as the offensive movement of the Confederates became developed in its true proportions the Federal Government would recall Grant's whole army. No corps of observation which Grant might leave behind on embarking could hold its ground against a combined land and naval attack from Richmond.

Nearly 3000 prisoners had been brought in from Wilson's Corps, so that his entire loss could not be less than 4000 and 5000. He had lost all his artillery, trains, and stores; in fact, only just escaped total destruction. About twenty miles of the track of the Danville Railroad was destroyed by him; but, as there are no important bridges on that portion of the track, the "Corps of Constructors," a corps of railway engineers and labourers specially formed for such purposes, would be able to repair the damage in less than two weeks.

The balance of prisoners in favour of the Confederates during the Virginia campaign alone was estimated at no less than 10,000. A greater portion of the prisoners are stragglers who voluntarily came into the Confederate lines and surrendered themselves. They report that in Grant's army, so frequent had become the practice of self-mutilation, generally by shooting or cutting off a finger, that an order has been issued severely punishing the men so soon as their self-made wounds are healed, and then sending them as labourers under guard into the trenches. Besides malarious fevers, very malignant bowel complaints, caused by the bad water and the pulverised sand with which the atmosphere is surcharged, had appeared, and threatened to become epidemic in the Federal army.

Grant was leisurely shelling Petersburg at a distance of about two miles, but doing little damage. Communications between that city and Richmond were perfect, and not in the least disturbed. No scarcity was apprehended of provisions. The army was healthy and in excellent spirits. At no time had the Confederates been more sanguine. It was generally considered that General Lee was indisputably master of the situation, and that the war could not be prolonged much beyond the present campaign.

SPIRIT OF THE SOUTH.

No people were ever more thoroughly in earnest than the people of these States. The schools have all been closed except for boys and girls of tender years; women who have been delicately reared willingly forego the luxuries and comforts to which they have been accustomed all their lives, and give up their linen and silks for the coarse fabrics produced by the looms of the country; they perform the postal service in many parts of the country, and may be found at the wayside "homes," the hospitals, the sewing establishments, and, indeed, wherever there is work to be done or suffering to be assuaged. Wealthy planters and thrifty merchants and bankers gladly take their places in the trenches, and bear all the fatigues of the campaign equally with the poorest; ministers vacate their pulpits to preach in the woods and fields, and grey-haired fathers send their sons to the camp and take their places at the handles of the plough. And now, when the army is engaged in a mortal struggle with a multitudinous foe, pious people everywhere, of every sex and condition, in public meeting and private devotions, offer prayers day and night without ceasing for the success of the cause and the safety of their loved ones. Can such a people be conquered? Ought such a people to be subjugated? Even boys of fourteen and fifteen years of age run away from their parents to join the army.—*Letter from Richmond.*

FEDERAL FINANCE.

Mr. Chase, in a message to the Committee of Ways and Means, sent in on the day previous to his resignation, exhibits a budget of deficiencies which might appal Mr. Gladstone and M. Fould; which certainly would have appalled Mr. Pitt or M. Neckar; which may not, perhaps, appear very terrible to a people which talks with unconcern of a million of soldiers and of five thousand millions of debt; but which certainly ought to make Mr. Fessenden take heed lest his own failure do not become as flagrant as that of his predecessor. He states that the aggregate revenue from all sources for the year ending Thursday, the 30th of June, was two hundred and forty millions of dollars, which at the then value of the dollar was less than twenty-four millions of pounds sterling, while the amount of liability, excluding two months' pay of the army which he had no funds to meet, was eight hundred and eighty millions of dollars. He therefore required to raise, either by loan or by additional taxation, or both combined, six hundred and forty millions of dollars. Congress had authorised him to borrow four hundred millions of dollars on the best terms he could get, so that he required a heavier tariff and a heavier internal taxation to meet the deficiency. This is for the past year alone. The year from July 1, 1864, to July 1, 1865—provided the war continues during the interval—will, perhaps, show a larger income from taxation, if the taxes be levied and paid, but it will, at the same time, show a proportionately swollen deficiency. Mr. Chase estimates the receipts at three hundred and eighteen millions of dollars at the utmost, and the outgoings of the army, navy, and the war generally at eight hundred and fifty millions, showing a new deficiency of five hundred and thirty-two millions. As the high tariff may either kill the foreign trade entirely or set the smugglers to work—and as in America, the great cities excluded, it is much easier to decree taxes than to levy them—it is possible that Mr. Chase's receipts may exceed the truth when the accounts come to be made up, and equally possible that war, always a devouring monster, may consume a great deal more than Mr. Chase anticipates. At all events, the prospect for Mr. Fessenden is not cheerful. The North cannot purchase the luxury of exterminating the South with the blood of its young men only, though it offer their lives at the rate of a thousand or a couple of thousand a day. It must buy with money as well as with men; and if it go into debt to achieve its passionate object, it must temporarily depreciate its paper dollar, as compared with gold; and, finally, it must either pay up or repudiate.—*Times Correspondent.*

MANIFESTO OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

The following manifesto has been voted by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, and ordered to be circulated abroad:—

The Congress of the Confederate States of America, acknowledging their responsibility to the opinion of the civilised world, to the great law of Christian philanthropy, and to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, for the part they have been compelled to bear in the sad spectacle of war and carnage which this continent has for the last three years exhibited to the eyes of afflicted humanity, deem the present a fitting occasion to declare the principles, the sentiments, and the purposes by which they have been, and are still, actuated.

They have ever deeply deplored the necessity which constrained them to take up arms in defence of their rights and of the free institutions derived from their ancestors; and there is nothing they more ardently desire than peace, whenever the enemy, by ceasing from the unallowable war waged upon them, shall permit them to enjoy in peace the sheltering protection of those hereditary rights and those cherished institutions. The series of successes with which it has pleased Almighty God in so signal a manner to bless our arms on almost every point of our invaded border since the opening of the present campaign enables us to profess this desire of peace in the interest of civilisation and humanity, without danger of having our motives misinterpreted, of the declaration being ascribed to any unmanly sentiment, or any mistrust of our ability fully to maintain our cause. The repeated and disastrous checks, foreshadowing ultimate discomfiture, which their

gigantic army, erected against the capital of the Confederacy, has already met with, are but a continuation of the same providential successes for us. We do not recur to these successes in any spirit of vain boasting, but in humble acknowledgment of that Almighty protection which has vouchsafed and granted them.

The world must now see that 8,000,000 of people, inhabiting so extensive a territory, with such varied resources and such numerous facilities for defence as the benignant bounty of nature has bestowed upon us, and animated with one spirit to encounter every sacrifice of ease, of health, of property, of life itself, rather than be degraded from the condition of free and independent States, into which they were born, can never be conquered. Will not our adversaries themselves begin to feel that humanity has bled long enough, that tears, and blood, and treasure enough have been expended in a bootless undertaking, covering their own land, no less than ours, with a pall of mourning, and exposing them far more than ourselves to the catastrophe of financial exhaustion and bankruptcy, not to speak of the loss of their liberties by the despotism engendered in an aggressive warfare upon the liberties of another and a kindred people? Will they be willing, by a longer perseverance in a wanton and hopeless contest, to make this continent, which they so long boasted to be the chosen abode of liberty and self-government, of peace and a higher civilisation, the theatre of the most causeless and prodigal effusion of blood the world has ever seen, of a virtual relapse into the barbarism of the ruder ages, and of the destruction of constitutional freedom by the lawlessness of usurped power?

These are questions which our adversaries will decide for themselves. We desire to stand acquitted before the tribunal of the world, as well as in the eyes of Omniscient Justice, of any responsibility for the origin or prolongation of a war as contrary to the spirit of the age as to the traditions and acknowledged principles of the political system of America.

On this continent, whatever opinions may have prevailed elsewhere, it has ever been held and acknowledged by all parties that government, to be lawful, must be founded on the consent of the governed. We were forced to dissolve our federal connection with our former associates by their aggressions on the fundamental principles of our compact of union with them; and in doing so we exercised a right consecrated in the great charter of American liberty—the right of a free people, when a Government proves destructive of the ends for which it was established, to recur to the original principles and to institute new guards for their security. The separate independence of the States as the sovereign and coequal members of the Federal Union had never been surrendered, and the pretensions of applying to independent communities, so constituted and organised, the ordinary rules for coercing and reducing rebellious subjects to obedience was a solecism in terms, as well as an outrage on the principles of public law.

The war made upon the Confederate States was, therefore, wholly one of aggression. On our side it has been strictly defensive. Born freemen and the descendants of a gallant ancestry, we had no option but to stand up in defence of our invaded firesides, of our desecrated altars, of our violated liberties and birthright, and of the prescriptive institutions which guard and protect them. We have not interfered, nor do we wish in any manner whatever to interfere with the internal peace and prosperity of the States arrayed in hostility against us, or with the freest development of their destinies, in any form of action or line of policy they may think proper to adopt for themselves. All we ask is a like immunity for ourselves, and to be left to ourselves in the undisturbed enjoyment of those inalienable rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" which our common ancestors declared to be the equal heritage of all the parties to the social compact.

Let them forbear aggressions upon us, and the war is at an end. If there be questions which require adjustment by negotiations, we have ever been willing, and are still willing, to enter into communication with our adversaries in a spirit of peace, of equity, and of manly frankness. Strong in the persuasion of the justice of our cause, in the manly devotion of our citizen soldiers, and of the whole body of our people, and, above all, in the gracious protection of Heaven, we are not afraid to avow a sincere desire for peace on terms consistent with our honour and the permanent security of our rights, and an earnest aspiration to see the world once more restored to the beneficent pursuits of industry and of mutual intercourse and exchanges so essential to its well-being, and which have been so gravely interrupted by the existence of this unnatural war in America.

But if our adversaries, or those whom they have placed in power, deaf to the voice of reason and justice, steered to the dictates of prudence and humanity by a presumptuous and delusive confidence in their own numbers, or those of their black and foreign mercenaries, shall determine upon an indefinite prolongation of the contest, upon them be the responsibility of a decision so ruinous to themselves and so injurious to the interest and repose of mankind.

For ourselves, we have no fear of the result. The wildest picture ever drawn by a disordered imagination comes short of the extravagance which would dream of the conquest of eight millions of people, resolved with one mind "to die freemen rather than live slaves," and forewarned by the savage and exterminating spirit in which this war has been waged upon them, and by the mad avowals of the supporters of the worse than Egyptian bondage that awaits them in the event of their subjugation. With these declarations of our dispositions, our principles, and our purposes, we commit our cause to the enlightened judgment of the world, to the sober reflections of our adversaries themselves, and to the solemn and righteous arbitrament of Heaven.

THE LATE RAILWAY CATASTROPHE IN CANADA.

THE *Montreal Telegraph* contains the following account of the shocking railway catastrophe on the Grand Trunk Railway:—

The Neckar sailed from Hamburg on the 11th of May, with 538 souls, the greater part of whom came from Bohemia, and the remainder from Poland, Saxony, the Hanseatic towns, and Sweden and Norway. Sixteen only came from the latter kingdom. As a class these poor emigrants were distinguished for their eminently respectable appearance, broad stolid countenances, and light flaxen hair. They were all grouped into families, few single men being amongst them, and with some exceptions were well provided with means. The train on leaving Point Levi, therefore, contained 458 passengers, who occupied eleven freight and second-class cars, the luggage occupying two cars in the forward part of the train. At 1.15 a.m. the train arrived at St. Hilaire station, a mile or so from the bridge over the River Richelieu, and was then in charge of Birney, the engine-driver, Finn, a conductor and one of the most careful men on the road, and Plinn, the brakeman. It left the station immediately after, and proceeded up the road to the bridge. The night was fine and clear—so much so, that the station-master at St. Hilaire saw the train proceeding over the bridge. The draw was then open, five barges passing through on their way to Lake Champlain, in tow of the steamer Whitehall, laden with oats and sawn lumber. The usual red danger-light was burning, and could be seen at the distance of 1620 feet, or more than 1000 feet from the end of the bridge, which is constructed of iron, and rests on seven stone piers, at an altitude of about 40 feet from the summer level of the river. The bridge-master saw the train coming, and, in addition to the danger-signal already hoisted on the semaphore, ran on the track and waved another red light for the train to stop. It still came on, however; and just as the mast of the third vessel in tow of the Whitehall had cleared the bridge, the train fell into the gap caused by the opening of the drawbridge, car after car thundering into the river and on the deck of the barge 40 feet below. The locomotive struck the barge just aft of the mast, bounded off and plunged into the river, tearing out a large piece of the side of the vessel, which careened over and sank two or three feet into the bed of the river. The tender came next, and appears to have capsized upon the locomotive. It was followed by the baggage-cars, which fell flat upon the draw and are comparatively uninjured, while above them, in fearful inextricable confusion, came the cars containing the unfortunate passengers. Only one of the lot was fitted with seats, and, by some strange chance, was thrown half across the deck of the barge, one of its ends being partly submerged in the river. Its inmates were fearfully shaken by the shock, the seats having been torn out, but do not appear to have sustained much serious injury, as, although its roof was broken through, its sides and floor are comparatively free from the blood which bespattered the greater part of the others in every direction. The other cars were literally piled one upon the other, and so mixed up and jumbled that it seemed as if they had been placed under a press of enormous power and crushed into an unrecognisable mass of splinters and iron, mixed here and there with car-wheels in every position, shreds of clothing, loaves of bread, bundles, and human bodies, bruised, battered, and covered with blood. The woodwork in some of the broken cars was open here and there, and one could see through them into further sickening vistas of hands, heads, and feet, covered with shattered splintered woodwork and torn clothing. Some of the members thus held up by the wreck in which they were immovably incased were blue to blackness, betokening the nature of the death of which the poor sufferers had died. Here and there a child could be distinguished, its little flaxen head dabbled with blood and its body lying in the wreck on the water. Everybody that I saw was the more or less disfigured, wet, or bruised; but, through the blood on the face and brow, the calm, placid aspect assumed by the suddenly killed could be easily distinguished. They were, as a whole, very black about the eyes, the concussion on the brain having injected the blood-vessels of the eye and stained the cheek and eyelids all round about. As soon as the train fell in, the alarm was given in the vicinity, and assistance was telegraphed for. The conductor and brakeman were missing; Birney, the engine-driver, was slightly injured and rescued from the wreck. Many of the passengers made their way out of the broken cars to the deck of the partly sunken vessel, and thus came to land. It is a astonishing that so many should have escaped so slightly injured. The clearing of the debris proceeded in the mean time with much difficulty and slowness, owing to the great confusion in which the wheels, trucks, and other parts of the cars were involved. A strong cable was attached to the upper part of the pile, and by this means two cars, the last of the ill-fated train, were dragged on to the wharf under the bridge. Their removal revealed a horrible sight. A shapeless blue mass of heads, and hands, and feet protruded among the splinters and framework, and gradually resolved itself into a closely-packed mass of human beings, all ragged and bloody, and dented and dingy

from crown to foot with blue bruises and wheals, and cuts inflicted by the ponderous iron works, the splinters, and the enormous weight of the train. The bodies were cleared from the wreck and carried into the upper story of the shed on the wharf below the bridge, the lower part of which had been littered with straw for the wounded. The debris around them was covered with shreds of their clothing, pieces of bread, trinkets, and coins, gun-stocks, implements of every description, torn books and papers, tin cups, boots and shoes, and an innumerable number of other articles. A great many of the dead had been evidently asleep or unbenet, as the majority of them had taken off their boots and coats in the endeavour to make themselves as comfortable as possible. They lay heaped up one upon another like sacks, and dressed in the traditional blue clothing of the German people, and, as we have already stated, were almost undistinguishable from the blood and bruises with which they were covered. While matters were thus proceeding another special train arrived from Montreal. Some hard fatiguing labour, under a terribly hot sun, had to be done in removing the wounded to the cars, and it was done with a will and a spirit which has eminently creditable to all concerned in the ghastly work. About sixty of the passengers were seriously injured, and from one hundred to 110 injured in all. Up to this moment forty-five bodies had been recovered from the debris, eighteen of whom were adults, some men of tall, powerful frame and fine proportions. The wreck of two cars still barred the way, and, though feet and hands could be seen in plenty, it was impossible to get at the bodies still in the water. A cable was consequently attached to the framework of the upper one, and was passed over the bridge to a locomotive on the track above. Steam was then put on, and the framework of the car was slowly dragged asunder and hauled up on to the wharf. Six more bodies were then recovered, all lying in the water, and more or less disfigured with the wounds and bruises. It was surmised that the wreck of the next car would reveal more, and, sad to say, the prediction came true as a dense mass of bodies, closely wedged together, was disclosed and carried into the deadhouse. Two thirds, or about ten of the number, were children, neatly dressed, like their parents, in blue cloth or calico, but fearfully bruised and disfigured. Still another tier of bodies was uncovered as the day wore on, and by this time the number of dead recovered from the river amounted to sixty-nine, or thirteen men, nineteen women, sixteen boys, and twenty-one girls. The last discovery was effected by the removal of the second car mentioned above. As it swung round on its chain, a mass of eight bodies, as closely packed as they could well be, became apparent. The lower tier consisted of children and a young man, while above them were two girls and a boy, and on the top of the pile a well-built man, of powerful frame, who lay on his back with a car wheel resting on his throat, completely concealing his face from view. The probabilities are that it was so shattered by the wheel as to be unrecognisable. One of his hands lay by his side, and was quite black with blood. It is supposed that from twenty to thirty bodies are still in the river. Flynn, the brakeman, was found in the river.

DAVID WILSON, Esq., the well-known Indian merchant, gave a grand evening party at his residence, Castleton, Wimbledon, on the 14th inst., at which about 300 guests were present. The beautiful grounds were brilliantly illuminated, and dancing and other festivities were kept up till an early hour on the following morning.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A boy nine years of age lost his life, on Monday, in a singular manner. The proposed railway, in its progress into the City, causes the demolition of a number of houses about Somers Town and Agar Town. A number of boys hang about the workmen to pick up strays and wafes which they may turn into a few coppers. In this case several of them attempted to pull out the woodwork of a window-frame, and swaying it to and fro they loosened the bricks in which it was embedded, and the whole wall fell, crushing one of their number to death.

THE GRAND HOTEL, BRIGHTON.—On Wednesday the directors of the company established for the purpose of conducting an hotel under the above denomination assembled in the building, with a limited number of gentlemen invited on the occasion, to inspect the internal arrangements preparatory to the public opening, which takes place this day the 23rd. The new building is situated in the King's-road, on a spot which commands one of the best views of the sea to be found in this very popular watering-place. It is in the Italian style of architecture, admirably finished both within and without. The structure is nine stories in height, and has elegantly-shaped balconies along the entire front of the windows. Every window has the advantage of a blind, constructed by Messrs. Lowther upon an ingenious principle, which enables the occupants of the rooms to witness all that takes place below without being seen themselves. The interior of the building is remarkable for the abundant amount of space which has been devoted to every department; and all the new principles of ventilation seem to have been skilfully followed. All the usual requisites of coffee-room, library, reading-room, billiard and smoking rooms, are well arranged; and on the ground floor there are two tastefully-decorated conservatories, together with a ladies' coffee-room, which latter has all the character of a drawing-room in a private mansion. In order to obviate the difficulty which many might raise against the task of mounting some eight or nine flights of stairs, an ingenious "lift" has been constructed, having all the appearance of a movable room, and by which inmates of the house may be raised from the bottom to the top. The rooms in the hotel number 260. Means have been provided for conveying warm water to every floor, and the arrangements for gas-lighting are upon the most elaborate and convenient scale. The hotel is so situated that a view may be commanded from the upper windows of every side of Brighton; and the directors have entered into an agreement with the town authorities by which such alterations are being made in the roadway in front of the house as will add greatly to its attractions for promenading. The architect of the structure was Mr. John Whitehead, and the builder Mr. Lewis Glenton, of Blackheath. In the evening an inaugural banquet took place in the hotel, at which Mr. Smea, the chairman of directors, presided.

BLOOMSBURY BLOSSOMS.

ANYBODY who has followed Leigh Hunt in those walks about London which suggested so much to his graceful fancy and genial kindness will have shared his pleasure in standing to gaze at the trees which may be met with here and there in odd nooks and corners of the great City. It is true that the overhanging branches which once shaded the entrance to Wood-street, in Cheapside, were long ago lopped away; but the fig-tree in the churchyard of Laurence-Pountney yet remains, and spots more or less green, though grimed by the long accumulation of City smoke, are still to be discovered—oases in a desert of wholesale warehouses and narrow streets.

It would be well if, beside the parks which are or should be the pleasure-grounds of the poor, more of our large squares were made available as places of resort for all classes during the summer evenings. Would it be too much to say, for instance, that Leicester-square would be better so employed than left, as it now is, a dreary waste for the melancholy exhibition of a mutilated leaden efigy?

To the ordinary observer impressed with admiration for that peculiarity of the British Constitution which gives the subject full liberty to do what he pleases, within the limits of the law, so long as he does it at his own expense and without the expectation of assistance from the State;—to such an observer the appearance of Russell-square on a certain day in last week would have presented unmingled pleasure. Indeed, to any observer whatever, unless he happened to be a confirmed misanthrope, the aspect of the interior of that marquee in Russell-square would have been amongst the pleasantest sights of this pleasant season, for it was suggestive of one of that active benevolence and sympathy which goes beyond mere commonplace charity in establishing sympathy for the poor, in those little touches of nature, to acknowledge and appreciate which is to "elevate the masses" by a surer method than was ever devised by mouthing agitators or effected by casual subscribers.

To promote in a single district, in the heart of London, a love for flowers, and what would seem to be almost inseparable from it, the practice of order and cleanliness in those rooms where no little diligence is necessary to attain either, is a good work, and one the more difficult from the delicacy which must always accompany it. For, whatever may be the opinion of philanthropists of the "Pardiggle" school, the "working classes," even the poorest amongst them, have their susceptibilities (and Heaven knows that this is to their credit, seeing how much they have suffered which is likely to blunt and destroy them), so that, while prizes offered for shrubs and flowers grown in windows, on leads, in small yards, and other not very likely-looking places, would be perhaps easy, prizes for clean and tidy rooms would seem several degrees more objectionable. It must be remembered, however, that the gentlemen who form the committee, such as the working clergy and medical men, are on pretty intimate terms with the people of the district, that they are the very men who know how to refrain from wounding the pride of the people amongst whom they constantly visit, and that they occupy a position at once familiar and influential, which enables them to encourage the poor without injuring their self-respect. As for the president of this "Blossoms flower show," Lord Shaftesbury, the poor have learned to associate his name with most of the personal and domiciliary improvements which have lately been devised for their

benefit, and there is no position in the world where his Lordship is more at home than in advising, congratulating, or arranging on such an occasion as that to which we refer. In this, the most interesting horticultural show of the season, the hardy fuchsia and the cherished geranium were amongst the most prominent features of the display—a fact which is easily accounted for when we remember that the more truly English flowers (and notoriously the rose) refuse to bloom amidst London smoke. Anyone who has ever tried to rear even a geranium in a close room and has watched how soon the delicate petals will shrink and droop for want of fresh air and pure water, will have wondered at the success which marked the efforts of the exhibitors in Russell-square, and will admire the loving, patient interest with which they must have tended their floral pets. It is just this interest which lies at the root of all the benefit likely to be achieved by the promotion of London gardening. Think of the delight with which the little family in that back street watched the development of the tender green leaves and the hard, tinted bud; fancy the delight with which they hailed the burst of bloom—the pretty contrast of deep crimson, pink, snow-white, and green—the assiduous care with which they strove to keep the leaves unsullied—add to this the hope that their pet flowers, the principal amusement of weeks past, may gain a prize, and you will begin to see how much the poor of Bloomsbury may have benefited by the movement. Those who visited this cockney flower-show in the expectation of seeing only a few half-stunted, weedy plants were vastly mistaken, for there were blooms under the marquee in Russell-square which would not have disgraced a more aristocratic origin. The "children in national, infant, Sunday, parochial, and ragged schools" came out strong on the occasion, and, in their special department (class 4), had evidently done wonders—who can tell with what painstaking resolve? The "airey," too, that dismal stone tank before private houses, ordinarily smelling of blacking and damp firewood, must have been turned to good account, for the "domestic servants" made a wonderful display.

The prizes offered for clean and tidy rooms had, it was said, produced very important results in a sanitary point of view, and the "clean and tidy rooms" themselves may be believed to bear a very close relation to the plants. It was obvious that some attention was paid to the arrangement of the flowers by several of the exhibitors, and one of the most interesting objects in the whole exhibition was a miniature garden about 18 inches square, the product of an exhibitor from Southampton-mews. There can be little doubt that, on the next occasion, a greater choice of plants will be displayed, and that there will be some extension of the varieties at present grown; some extra prizes may be given for other varieties. Indeed, a gentleman residing in the square gave a guinea as an extra prize next year for a tree-carnation—a perpetually blooming plant, which requires only ordinary care in its cultivation. The exhibition of last week was the "fourth parochial flower show of St. George's, Bloomsbury;" and to show how encouraging has been the progress of the movement, it may be mentioned that in the first year 140 plants were registered for exhibition; in the second year about 180 were registered; in the third year 547 plants were shown, and 217 exhibitors; while this year 400 persons entered their names and nearly 800 plants were exhibited. Last year prizes for clean and tidy rooms were offered for the first time, by way of experiment, through a section of the parish; 86 persons gave in their names as competitors. This year the prizes were extended to the whole parish, and 304 persons competed for them. A large number of the leading parishioners were present at the exhibition; and, in the course of some remarks made by the Rev. Emilus Bayley, B.D., the Rector, it was stated that the flower competition had been productive of much moral benefit.

THE GERMAN TROOPS OF THE ALLIED ARMIES IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

THE traveller who has witnessed the precise and elaborately pipe-clayed condition of the Prussian soldier in barracks, or about the railway stations and public offices in Berlin, has scarcely, we imagine, associated him with active operations in the field. Most visitors to the Continent are familiar with the dapper officer; his waist compressed; his pantaloons extended by numerous plaits; his belt and trimmings polished, rubbed, and whitened to the highest pitch; his moustache duly waxed into needle points; his gait alternating between a strut and a swagger. They are familiar, too, with the more or less stolid private, in the same condition of unbearable precision as to accoutrements, with all his belongings theoretically perfect, but yet with an indescribable want in his appearance which betokens that he has not seen service.

Anybody remembering these as the attributes of the Prussian troops would be not a little surprised to see the change which has been effected during the Schleswig-Holstein campaign. The accoutrements are all there; for the campaign itself has served to show how perfect is the equipment of the Prussian army, and how every practical detail has been amply considered, every possible emergency provided against. The accoutrements are there, but their disposition has been modified in the very way that all mere theoretical regulations should be modified, and the army authorities have wisely admitted a very wide discretion in these matters. Our Engraving will show not only the admirable way in which the men were equipped during the winter campaign, but also the free-and-easy manner in which they provided for their own convenience by tucking trousers into boots, swathing the neck in weather-proof wrappings, and easily adjusting sword-belts and haversacks. The Austrians have by far the most picturesque look, whether it be in the hussar regiments, with their laced "dolmans," their white, linen-covered shakos, and white cloaks; or the gay uhlan, or the jagers, with their changeful plumes of cock's-feathers. The Prussian uniforms are darker and more sombre; whether it be the grey cloak of the infantry, tucked up behind to admit of their marching, or the dark green of the dragoons, with their red facings; but the men are dressed serviceably, and their foot-gear is sound, the pipeclayed gaiter having mostly given way to short boots, into which the trousers are tucked, or long hip-boots. Gun-slings are less tightly buckled, too; and though the infantry are under the difficulty of marching with fixed bayonets (they have no bayonet sheaths), they are well appointed to withstand the weather, even the neck and ears being protected by a sort of hood fastened under the helmet. The Prussian helmet, by-the-by, is being rapidly abandoned as cumbersome and impracticable. This is, perhaps, the reason why it is to be adopted here as the new head-dress for our police. Speaking of helmets, the Prussian troops have adopted the old fashion of wearing a sprig of heath or leaves in their kepis or shakos, in order that they may be distinguished from Austrians.

There is a wonderful difference in the appearance and size of the men in the various regiments, from the light, rather effeminate-looking native of Berlin to the big, earnest Pomeranian soldier, whose regiment takes up twice as much room on the field. But all the troops have rapidly attained a campaigning look; their discipline and military bearing were already established.

Our Engraving represents, on the right, a Prussian infantry soldier; next him stands one of the Austrian infantry, and beside them are the officers over their respective regiments. The rest of the group consists of an Austrian jager, a Prussian cuirassier, a Prussian hussar, a uhlan, a Windischgratz dragoon, an Austrian (Reichstein) hussar, and an artilleryman of each service, all of them appearing in the full equipment which they adopted during the late winter campaign.

THE CAPTURE OF ALSEN.

Our readers are already aware that the Germans lost not an hour after the expiry of the late armistice ere they recommenced hostilities. The truce ended on a Sunday; next morning the Prussians commenced firing upon the Danes in Alsen; and on the following Wednesday they crossed the Sand in boats and commenced the attack upon the Danish troops who had been left on the island. These were under the command of General Steinman, who maintained his position



1. Prussian Foot Soldier. 2. Austrian Foot Soldier. 3. Austrian Infantry Officer. 4. Prussian Infantry Officer. 5. Prussian Foot Soldier. 6. Austrian Rifleman. 7. Prussian Officer of Culcarriers. 8. Prussian Hussar. 9. Prussian Lancer. 10. Austrian Dragon. 11. Austrian Hussar. 12. Austrian Artilleryman. 13. Prussian Artilleryman.

AUSTRIAN AND PRUSSIAN TROOPS ENGAGED IN THE WAR WITH DENMARK.

on Alsen till all the guns and matériel of war, together with nearly all the troops, had been embarked in the transports waiting to convey them to Funen. The fighting for a time was very severe, and an official Copenhagen journal, in speaking of the affair, says:—"Our losses, which cannot yet be precisely stated, appear, unfortunately, to have been very considerable. The 4th, 5th, and 18th Regiments are stated to have been the heaviest sufferers. We had before us nearly 16,000 Prussians, while our force did not amount to more than 9000 or 10,000 men, a number of whom, being in the north of the island, were unable to take part in the action, and had to retreat upon Nordberg, whence they were removed by transports." The same paper publishes a letter from an officer engaged, which designates the fighting as the most severe and determined during the present war, and states that the Danish troops fought admirably. The struggle was conducted with great exasperation on both sides, and it is said that several detachments neither gave nor took quarter.

Our Engraving portrays the action between the Prussians and a Danish division which was engaged in covering the embarkation of the stores.

THE LATE MR. SCOVILLE ('MANHATTAN'), AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT OF THE "STANDARD."

AMONGST the numerous "own correspondents" whose letters have furnished the British public with information on American affairs, those of "Manhattan" in the *Standard* have attained the greatest degree of notoriety. They were, in fact, just the kind of letters to secure popular attention, since, while they were evidently written by a person who was on the scene of, and possessed an intimate acquaintance with, the public events which he described, they were altogether remarkable for a power of terse illustration and pithy unscrupulousness of comment which, in these days of fine writing and subdued individuality, were singularly attractive. The style of many of these letters was of course to a great degree careless, and their diction vulgar and sometimes repulsive in its strong personality; but it was always effective, and, even in its wildest flights and most unscrupulous contradictions, the writer seemed always to be aware of some damaging fact on which his prophecies were founded.

There was once a class of literature in London which in many respects resembled these famous letters; and though probably few of our readers will be acquainted with its most striking example in the *Town*, that unscrupulous and frequently—as most people thought it—disreputable print, contained articles which showed a great similarity of style to the recent correspondence of "Manhattan." This peculiarity has been perhaps more strikingly illustrated by the novel which, under the title of "Marion," was one of the latest productions of Mr. Scoville, and has been so fully reviewed in our daily and weekly contemporaries.

That the story, which mainly consists of the supposed adventures of a number of infamous people at New York, should have been repudiated by the inhabitants of that city as a picture of society there is scarcely to be wondered at; and the very power and apparent truth with which the book is written makes such a denial by no means inexpedient; but it seems

to have been all the more necessary as the characters in the book are most of them actual living people, already notorious, and the reality of the work would scarcely be injured in England by the fact that the names of other well-known but highly respectable persons

are introduced incidentally in such a way as to convey an impression that the aspect of New York morals was correctly depicted.

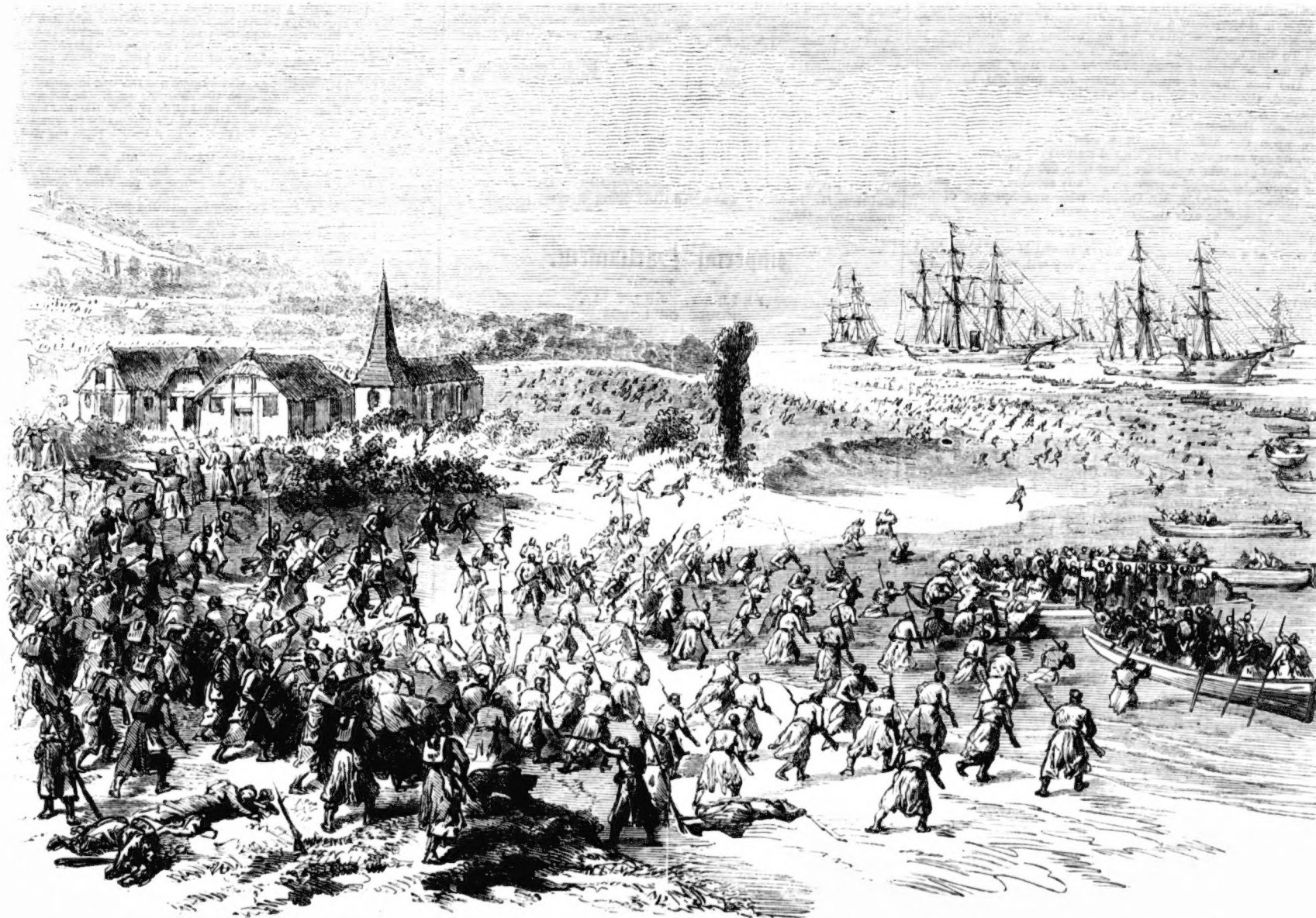
Whatever may be the faults of book or letters, and whatever may have been the shortcomings of their writer, he has ceased to trouble the people of New York, and he also has ceased from being troubled by a Government so sensitive that it cannot endure a difference of opinion. In one of the latest of his letters to the *Standard*, "Manhattan" mentioned that he was suffering from ill-health, and at the same time he had been summoned before Major-General Dix, charged with taking an unfavourable view of the Northern cause, placed under arrest, and paroled for a few days, till the President had been consulted with as to the fitting punishment to be inflicted on him.

"We were prepared," says the *Standard*, in noticing the event, "for a breach in the continuity of his correspondence through the influence of the despotic military authority now ruling the Federal States, but did not anticipate its entire cessation, caused by a power against which there is no appeal. Death has stepped in and released 'Manhattan' at once from his arrest and parole and any subsequent designs that the Government of Washington might have formed in regard to his case. We regret to have to announce to our readers the fact that 'Manhattan' expired, somewhat suddenly, at his own residence in New York, on the 25th of last month. The complaint producing the fatal result was congestion of the bowels. On the 28th, three days after, his body was consigned to the dust in Greenwood Cemetery. 'Manhattan,' at the time of his death, was in the fiftieth year of his age. He leaves behind him a widow and one child. We say nothing at present of the literary character of our late correspondent, whose communications were marked by a vigour and honesty that might well compensate for the absence of some of the graces of style that are at all times desirable and advantageous in literary composition. In his personal relations with his fellow-men 'Manhattan' was acknowledged by all to be generous in the extreme; and in the large circle of his friends his premature death is sincerely lamented. Our readers also, we are sure, will hear with regret of the decease of one whose vivid—if rough—pictures of Transatlantic life they have so often read with interest, and who so identified himself with his correspondence as to create in the minds of his readers an impression of thorough personal acquaintance."

The late Mr. Scoville was said, in a recent notice, to have been born in England, but it would appear from an American authority that he was a South Carolinian, and formerly secretary to John C. Calhoun. It is generally known, however, that he lived for some time in England, and was occupied with some literary work, though not holding any very well recognised position on the press. He was for many years connected with the *New York Herald* in the days when it was, if possible, more unscrupulous than it is now permitted to be; and it was he who started the notion of an ultra cheap journal, a scheme which he carried out by the publication of the *Picayune*—for some time an undoubted success. At various periods in his comparatively short

career Mr. Scoville has occupied a prominent place in American journalistic literature, but it may be doubted whether he was ever so celebrated as in the correspondence which he has lately conducted under the name of "Manhattan."

THE LATE JOHN A. SCOVILLE, ESQ., "MANHATTAN" OF THE STANDARD NEWSPAPER.
(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY FREDERICKS, OF NEW YORK.)



THE CAPTURE OF THE ISLAND OF ALSER: A DANISH DIVISION COVERING THE EMBARKATION OF THE DANISH TROOPS—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. HARSOULT)

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 245.

LAND AHEAD.

THE great fight has come and gone; and now, having lost a week, the House has settled down to sanction the remaining votes of supplies, discuss the motions on the order-book, and pass the bills which can be passed, and slaughter the innocents which have no chance of transmutation into Acts of Parliament this Session. It is pleasant now to listen to Mr. Speaker every night as he runs through the orders "That the order be discharged," "That the bill do now pass," "That this be the title of the bill"—all joyous sounds to jaded members, reporters, and officials. They are signs that the end draweth nigh. They bring with them anticipated whiffs from green fields, sea air, and mountain breeze, and promise us a speedy recurrence to healthful study of good books and quiet thought which many of us begin to feel that we sadly need. For, between ourselves, reader, whilst the atmosphere of the house is injurious to the bodily health, the bewildering babblement, the idle talk, the senseless gabble, and even the fierce debate, mixed as they may be and are with lofty eloquence and much wisdom, are terribly lowering to the tone of the mind; and when the Session is over, we all of us feel that we need screwing up again to concert-pitch. To live always in this region would be impossible. A twelvemonth's Session would be death to both body and mind.

HARD AT WORK.

We are working well now. Indeed, it is astonishing how much business we get through in a short time. There are several reasons for this. Many of the members have left town; the majority of the Irish have happily departed; and thus our talking power is materially diminished. The result of the great fight has cowed the Opposition, and all mere obstruction to business is given up. They have had their innings, and have scored so badly that there is no hope of their winning this Session; and so they sullenly let the game be played out without hindrance. And then, lastly, all want to get away. The London season is over. Wives and daughters are clamorous to leave the hot and dusty town. The grouse are on the wing (there has not been such a season for game for years); scores of trim gallies are lying at their anchors waiting for their owners. In short, lured by some temptation or other, many are gone, and all remaining are anxious to get away; and, within one week from the publication of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, Black Rod will summon the House to the bar of the Lords; my Lord Chancellor will read her Majesty's Speech to declare that Parliament is prorogued; Mr. Speaker will walk back without the mace, and, having read the Speech to a few members clustered round the table, will vanish through a back door; the curtain will drop, not to be lifted again, if the Fates be propitious, till next February. "What is done with the mace?" Well, we believe that the bauble is consigned to the custody of the Lord Chamberlain, who looks it up in a box, situate, lying, or being, as the lawyers say, somewhere in the recesses of Buckingham Palace.

A WORD OR TWO TOUCHING THE SPEAKER.

And now, having dismissed by anticipation Mr. Speaker, we will, being rather short of matter this week, say a word or two about the probability of his return. If this Parliament should meet again Mr. Denison, if his life and health be spared, will undoubtedly continue to be its Speaker. But what if Parliament should be dissolved? Will Mr. Denison be the Speaker of the new Parliament? Well, the general opinion is that he will not. But our readers will please to note that the decision will rest entirely with himself, for it is the almost uniform practice of the House, on the assembling of a new Parliament, to re-elect the Speaker, if he be willing to serve. The only exceptions to this practice are the cases of Sir Fletcher Norton and Sir Charles Manners Sutton: both these gentlemen were dismissed, though still willing to serve; but they were dismissed because they had meddled with party politics. Sir Fletcher Norton had made a speech at the bar of the Lords, whilst standing there in his official capacity, which had given offence both to the King (George III.) and his Ministers. Against Sir Charles Manners Sutton the following charge was brought by the Whig Ministers in 1835—"That, being Speaker, he had busied himself in the subversion of the late Government; that he had assisted with others in the formation of the new Government; and that he had, last of all, counselled and advised the dissolution of the late Parliament." These are exceptions, but they only prove the rule. But what if the Conservatives should gain a majority in a new Parliament? Would not they dismiss Mr. Denison, whether he be willing or unwilling to retire? To this question we venture to answer no. Mr. Denison, whatever may be alleged against him, has certainly not offended against the rule that a Speaker must not interfere in party politics; and, that being so, we believe that the Conservatives, if they should gain a majority, would not act contrary to the practice of Parliament. Upon the question whether Mr. Speaker would wish to retire upon the assembling of a new Parliament, having no evidence, we say nothing. If he should retire, it is probable that he will be offered and take a peerage; but it is not a matter of course that he should be offered a peerage. Many speakers have retired without peerages; notably, Mr. Onslow, who was Speaker of five Parliaments, extending over thirty-three years.

THIS PICTURE AND THAT.

Last week, at a noon sitting, we had a model House assembled. The question before us was a certain highway bill, which had to be passed through Committee. There were present about a hundred members, the great majority of whom were English country gentlemen; and it was beautiful to see how they settled down to the business of examining the bill, and how quietly they got through, in about three hours, its sixty or seventy clauses. In the first place, be it noted that all these men thoroughly understood what they had to discuss; and, secondly and chiefly, as we have said, they were English country gentlemen. Had the bill been an Irish bill, under the manipulation of the representatives of the Green Isle, how different would have been the scene! It would have infallibly been made a party question. It is a Government bill, and therefore, good or bad, it must be opposed. This would have been the logic of the Opposition members, or, as they delight to call themselves, the Independent Irish Conservatives, which, by-the-way, is in a certain sense a true designation, for they are so independent that no one can depend upon them. Then there would have come into play all the Hibernian pugnacity; not only would the Opposition have fought against the Government, but every man's hand would have been against his neighbour, after the manner of Ishmael, who, whatever ethnologists may say, surely must have been the progenitor of the Milesian race; we should have had at least a dozen divisions; every clause would have been fiercely contested; in short, the assembly would have fought over the poor bill like Kilkenny cats. But the members present on this occasion were English, not Irish; English country gentlemen, who, under no provocation, will do an offensive thing, who are rarely factious, and who, though they will use all their energies to carry their point, always submit gracefully when they are defeated. "But Irish bills do get through the House." Yes, they do, at the rate of about ten per cent of the number proposed; but it is with amazing difficulty. Steering a ship through the Northern Sea, with icebergs all around it, swift currents driving it out of its course, whirlpools ready to engulf it, and fierce tempests breaking ever and anon upon it, is not more difficult. Indeed, such are the perils which Irish bills have to encounter that we never see an important Irish bill safely moored in the list of Royal Assents, but we wonder how it got there. By-the-by, that Irish Chancery bill, by which the Attorney-General for Ireland hoped to clean out the Chancery Augean stable over the water, is wrecked. It was launched early in the Session, had plenty of time before it for its voyage, and a skilful pilot at the helm; but it encountered such a tempest of opposition that, after gallantly bearing up for a time, it went down with all its sails set, and is lost, to the great sorrow of its owner and to the great joy of the Spirits of the Storm, who, from the moment that it was launched, marked it out for destruction.

AN AUDACIOUS THING TO DO.

On Friday night we were very near being dismissed prematurely by a disastrous count out. Mr. Bernal Osborne was the man that got us into this danger. The House was struggling through a long list of motions on going into Supply, when suddenly the hon. member for Liskeard, who has all the Session, and especially since the great fight, been in a petulant mood, strode in, and, seeing that there were not more than some twenty members present, rose and moved that the House be counted; whereupon strangers were ordered to withdraw, the bells were set ringing, and every place where members most do congregate was ransacked to get together a sufficient number of men to make up the requisite forty. Great was the anxiety of the whips and the officials, and with sufficient reason, as we shall show; and up to the last moment there was a doubt whether the fortieth man could be obtained. Nobody, however, sanctioned the senseless move of Mr. Osborne; every man who came up went in, and the House was saved by one. Now, if the foolish attempt had succeeded, this would have happened—no Supply could have been obtained on that night, and, further, as "Supply" would have become a dropped order, it could not have been placed on the paper again till Monday, nor taken into consideration till Thursday, as Tuesday and Wednesday are not, without special order, available for Supply; the Session, therefore, would have been prolonged a week. Fortunately, however, as we have said, the reckless attempt was defeated, and now, at the time we are writing, all the Supplies have been voted and reported; and "the Appropriation Bill," that herald of the holiday which we all hail with joy, has been introduced, read a first and second time, and will, before this appears in print, be running its course through the House of Lords, which is a very pleasant thing to reflect upon, readers, now that the thermometer, notwithstanding all the skill of the ventilator and all the appliances of his art, stands at from 70 to 74.

ANOTHER.

On Tuesday we had another strange occurrence. The actors this time were Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Cox, the notable member for Finsbury, who, curiously enough—seeing that the one is an ultra-montane Roman Catholic and an Irishman, and the other an English Radical—have lately taken to run in couple for the purpose of hunting down small Government bills, and generally snatching up any unconsidered trifles which may come in the way. Very well matched are these two allies; for they are both exceedingly sharp, very watchful, of keen scent for mischief, and both sufficiently voluble of tongue, and not wanting in audacity. The case in question was this: there is upon the paper a bill introduced by Sir Charles Wood, Secretary for India and Cabinet Minister, intitled the India Medical Service Bill. Now, this bill excited the wrath of Mr. Hennessy and his ally, and they determined to oppose it at every stage, which they were quite justified in doing, provided always that they kept within the bounds of Parliamentary practice and courtesy. But this they did not, as we shall proceed to show. On Tuesday morning Mr. Hennessy, seconded by his friend, resisted the motion for going into Committee; and, having been defeated upon a motion for reporting progress, talked the bill out, as we say—that is, he talked on until the hands of the clock pointed to ten minutes to four, when Mr. Speaker, according to rule, stopped the debate. Well, there was not much that was wrong in that; but at the evening sitting, when the bill was called, Sir Charles, who had been watching for this bill for hours, was for the moment out of the way; and, in accordance with practice immemorial, motion was made that the consideration of the bill should be postponed. A motion for postponement in the absence of the promoter of a bill has hitherto been invariably a mere formal matter, and in our experience has never been seriously objected to. Indeed, common courtesy between gentlemen would seem to require that if the promoter of a measure be accidentally absent advantage should not be taken of the accident to defeat the bill; but Mr. Hennessy and his ally recognised no such rules of courtesy and practice. Mr. Cox, who this time played first fiddle, moved, Sir Charles being still absent, that the bill be postponed for two months. And this motion Mr. Hennessy seconded, notwithstanding the ruling of Mr. Speaker that such a course was quite unusual and contrary to practice, if not disorderly. And Mr. Hennessy proceeded to show the reason why. Meanwhile, Sir Charles, who had been found in the lobby, entered the house, astonished enough, no doubt, at the imminent danger of his bill. When Mr. Hennessy sat down, Sir Charles rose, and, without the slightest sign of irritation, proceeded calmly to defend his bill; and, having done this, he courteously begged that Mr. Hennessy would not divide. Mr. Hennessy, however, was inexorable. He saw that there were not forty members in the house, and that if he could press a division the House would be counted out, and thus the bill would become a dropped order, and time would be gained for another chance of war. Happily, however, Mr. Ayrton intervened, and pressed "his honourable friend" to allow the bill to pass, as, on the whole, he thought it was a necessary measure. Mr. Hennessy, thus pushed, hung fire for the moment, and Mr. Speaker, taking silence for consent, postponed the bill till Wednesday, and passed on swiftly to the next order; and thus Mr. Hennessy was saved from doing a most unusual and uncourteous thing.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 15.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

CONVOCAION AND SYNODICAL JUDGMENTS.

LORD HOUGHTON asked whether the Government had taken the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to the powers of Convocation to pass a synodical judgment on books written by clergymen or laymen. Such a judgment had been passed on "Essays and Reviews."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said there were three ways of dealing with Convocation in such a case as the present. First, to take no notice of them, which he thought best; second, to prorogue and dissolve the body; and, third, to bring them into a court of justice, which he deprecated. He hoped the noble Lord would not press the matter so as to compel him to put the law in motion, as the Convocation was prohibited from passing such a judgment as that indicated under penalties of prebendary; and he had no desire to see the right reverend bench prisoners at the bar, or to swell the Exchequer by a penalty of £40,000, to which they would be liable. So far as he had seen the alleged judgment, however, it seemed to him to be absolutely without significance, though composed of well-lubricated and saponaceous terms. It was not the intention of the Government to proceed in the matter; but he would warn the Prelates not again to carry Convocation beyond its power.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said that they had had legal advice that they were empowered to do what they had done. Their object was simply to vindicate the Church of England. He hoped such an occasion as this would not occur again.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON said that, in his opinion, Convocation had been wrong.

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD said the Lord Chancellor ought to have had more respect for himself in dealing with this matter than to stoop to ribaldry which he knew none who heard him would deign to answer. He charged the noble Lord with having made misstatements, both as to fact and law, and concluded by expressing his conviction that Convocation had acted properly in censuring the book.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said a few words in reply to the Bishop of Oxford, and the matter dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POSTAGE TO AUSTRALIA.

MR. F. PEEL, in reply to Lord A. Churchill, said the Government would postpone the execution of the recent increase in the rate of postage to Australia until the colonies had been communicated with as to their desire to have a bi-monthly mail in conjunction with the increase of the postage rate.

THE SESSION OF THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

MR. B. COCHRANE called attention to the discrepancies which existed between the statements made by her Majesty's Government and those of the advisers of the King of Greece respecting the conditions on which the Ionian Islands had been annexed to Greece, and also to the convention between her Majesty and the King of the Hellenes respecting the claims of British subjects and others, signed at London on the 29th of March, 1864.

MR. LAYARD denied that there were any discrepancies, and contended that what he had previously stated in regard to the matter was strictly true. As to the Greek bondholders, he did not think the British Government was bound to enter into any arrangements for their benefit.

MONDAY, JULY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

SPAIN AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

LORD BROUGHAM called attention to the countenance given by Spain to the slave trade. The only remedy was to impose a heavy discriminating duty on slave-grown sugar. The conduct of Brazil contrasted nobly with that of Spain. Mr. Christie had reported last year that the revival of the slave trade in Brazil was an impossibility. He (Lord Brougham) thought the time had arrived when the Aberdeen Act should be repealed.

EARL RUSSELL said successive Governments had in vain remonstrated with Spain in respect of the slave trade. Efforts would, however, be continued to bring her to the performance of her obligations in the matter.

THE EARL OF MALMESBURY censured Lord Palmerston for the tone in which he had recently spoken of Brazil. The conduct of that Government during the last ten years should have protected it from charges so offensive and unfounded, and fully justified the repeal of the Aberdeen Act.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TREATIES OF 1815 AND 1852.

MR. AYRTON inquired whether any representations had been made by her Majesty's Ministers to the Government of Prussia to the effect that if that Government insisted upon departing from the treaty which settled the limits of the Germanic Confederation this country would not hold itself further bound by that article of the Treaty of 1815 under which England guaranteed to Prussia the peaceable possession of her Saxon provinces.

LORD PALMERSTON said that no communication of that nature had been made to the Prussian Government, whose example he did not think it would be expedient that we should follow.

SIR J. PAKINGTON wished to know what was the exact position of the Treaty of 1852.

LORD PALMERSTON said the position of that treaty was the same as that of any other, the conditions of which had been found by the signatories to be inexpedient to enforce. The contracting parties to the Treaty of 1852 had been sharing in negotiations, the object of which was to modify its provisions; and in the late Conference of London all parties were willing by common consent to effect such a modification.

OUR RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL.

MR. OSBORNE drew attention to the state of our political relations with Brazil, and condemned the operation of the Aberdeen Act of 1845, which, he argued, ought to be repealed. Let that treaty be expunged from the statute-book, and Brazil would be too happy to enter into a commercial treaty and a postal convention with us; but so long as it remained in force so long would it be a source of annoyance, equally unfortunate to Brazil and injurious to the trade of England.

LORD PALMERSTON deprecated discussion at that moment, seeing that Ministers were now engaged through the Portuguese Government in a negotiation, the object of which was to re-establish diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Brazil.

Some further discussion took place, after which the subject dropped.

NEW ZEALAND GUARANTEE OF LOAN BILL.

ON the motion to go into Committee on this bill, SIR J. TRELAWNY asked what was the nature of the colonial security in the case. If the reply was not satisfactory he should move that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

GENERAL PEEL inquired whether the control of the Imperial forces in New Zealand was in the hands of the Governor or those of the local Ministers.

MR. CARDWELL said the control of the troops was placed in the hands of the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief, and he read an extract from a despatch in proof of this. The security for the loan would be the colonial revenues and the revenue from land sales.

After some discussion, SIR J. Trelawny's amendment was negatived by a majority of 79 to 32, and the bill passed through Committee.

TUESDAY, JULY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE EARL OF CARNARVON, on behalf of the Earl of Ellenborough, gave notice that that noble Earl would, on Tuesday next, the 26th inst., call attention to the changes which had taken place in the state of foreign affairs since the meeting of Parliament.

EARL GRANVILLE, in answer to an inquiry of Lord Redesdale, said the Government hoped to be able to prorogue Parliament at the end of next week, but, owing to the state of private business in that house, they were not in a position to name the precise day.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE report of Supply was brought up and agreed to; and the Appropriation Bill was brought in and read a first time.

SCHOOL INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

LORD PALMERSTON gave notice that on Monday next he should move that this House, having considered the report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the practice of the Committee of Council on Education with respect to the reports of her Majesty's inspectors of schools, is of opinion that the resolution passed on the 12th of April last, with reference to such reports, ought to be rescinded.

FIRING ON A MAIL-STEAMER BY THE PRUSSIANS.

MR. WYLD inquired whether Ministers had received information of an attack by the Prussian troops upon the Norwegian mail-steamer Viken, sailing from Christiania to Lubeck, whilst landing passengers at Fredericks-haven, in Jutland, on the morning of the 13th inst., on which occasion the lives of some British subjects who were on board were seriously endangered.

MR. LAYARD replied that the Government had received information of the Prussian troops having fired upon the steamer, but it was not stated that there were any English passengers on board, or that she was engaged in landing passengers. The explanation of the circumstance was that the Prussian forces had mistaken the steamer for a Danish vessel engaged in the landing of troops.

THE PAPER MANUFACTURE.

MR. MAGUIRE then moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the present position of the paper manufacture of the United Kingdom with respect to foreign taxation.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that if the hon. member should bring forward his motion next Session the Government would offer no opposition to it. Since making his financial statement in the spring, he was happy to say that much progress had been made in their negotiations on the subject of the export duty on rags from France, and, but for the agitation set on foot by the English paper-makers themselves and the motion now before the House, the probability was that the object of the negotiations would be accomplished within a very few days.

Some further discussion took place, after which the motion was withdrawn.

CONSTRUCTION OF IRON-CLAD SHIPS.

SIR F. SMITH moved for a Royal commission to inquire into the best means of constructing and armour plating ships of war. He pointed out the great differences which existed among the ships of our Navy, and insisted that a commission ought to issue, with the view to the adoption of a more perfect system.

LORD C. PAGET would agree to the issuing of a commission if he thought any good would result from it. But he did not believe it would be of advantage, for before it could make its report innumerable modifications might be introduced into ship-building. He believed our ships were equal to those of any other nation, and the Admiralty were busily engaged in considering the best means of making our vessels models of construction.

SIR J. HAY supported the proposal for a commission.

MR. LAIRD did not think such a course advisable, a view in which Sir M. Peto and Sir J. Pakington agreed.

SIR F. SMITH withdrew his motion.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE order for the second reading of the Inns of Court Bill was, on the motion of Mr. Roebuck, discharged and the bill withdrawn.

SIR F. KELLY also withdrew the Appeal in Criminal Cases Act Amendment Bill.

MR. COLLINS moved the second reading of the Facilities for Divine Service in Collegiate Schools Bill, which had received the sanction of the Lords, and the object of which was to legalise the performance of Divine service in public schools in accordance with the rites of the Established Church.

MR. HARCADISTE opposed the bill, and moved that it be read a second time that day month.

After a brief debate, SIR G. GREY suggested that the bill should be referred to a Select Committee and reintroduced next Session, which, being acceded to by Mr. Collins, the motion and amendment were both withdrawn and the order for the second reading discharged.

Several other bills were forwarded a stage—amongst others the Appropriation Bill, which was read a second time.

THURSDAY, JULY 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

EARL FORTESCUE moved the second reading of this bill, and explained its provisions. It was to authorise the use of the metric system of weights and measures in this country. It was proposed that the bill should be permissive, not compulsory.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY moved that the bill be read this day three months.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL said he intended voting in favour of the bill. He had really heard no argument against it, and he drew attention to the fact

that, with hardly an exception, all the chambers of commerce in this country had petitioned Parliament in favour of the bill.

After some further conversation the bill was carried by a majority of 31 to 23.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PASSPORTS IN FRANCE.

Sir WILLIAM FRASER asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether passports are required by British subjects travelling in France.

Mr. LAYARD said passports were never asked for in France except to identify nationality. He would advise all persons travelling on the Continent to provide themselves with passports, though they might not be required. He might mention that the countries in which passports were necessary, were Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, France, Italy, Prussia, Spain, Sweden, and Norway. In other countries they were required.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

Mr. GREGORY inquired whether, pending negotiations, the Royal Academy would be allowed to carry on its functions as heretofore.

Sir G. GREY said he saw no reason why the Royal Academy should not carry on its functions pending negotiations.

EAST INDIA REVENUE ACCOUNTS.

The House went into Committee, and Sir C. WOOD proceeded to make his annual statement with regard to Indian finance, and moved a series of resolutions embodying the charges and expenditure of the several provinces of India—the following, the 8th and 9th, showing the net revenue and charges, also the interest on the registered debt of India, &c.:

"8. That the total net revenues of the several presidencies, for the year ended the 30th day of April, 1863, amounted to £36,662,867 sterling, and the charges thereof amounted to £24,968,249 sterling—leaving a surplus revenue of £11,694,617 sterling.

"9. That the interest on the registered debt of India, paid in the year ended the 30th day of April, 1863, amounted to £3,351,630 sterling; and the charges defrayed in England, on account of the Indian territory, in the same period, including guaranteed interest on the capital of railway and other companies, after deducting net traffic receipts of railways, amounted to £6,515,601 sterling, leaving a surplus of Indian income for the year ended as aforesaid, after defraying the above interest and charges, of £1,827,346 sterling."

After a prolonged discussion the resolutions were agreed to.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1864.

NEW ZEALAND COLONISATION.

It is human to err. To err without the grace of confession and repentance is another matter, upon the humanity of which grave questions may arise. We English have lately been much afflicted by the deportation or extermination of the Poles. We have exhibited lively sympathy with the Venetians—oppressed, denationalised, and deprived of domicile by their conquerors, the Austrians. Also, we have shouted on behalf of Denmark, invaded and reduced by a combination of powerful adversaries. It is clear, therefore, that we profess respect for the Divine allotments of territory by the Almighty to His creatures.

Suddenly there comes upon us the account of a defeat of her Majesty's forces by half-naked savages in New Zealand. The "fighting 43rd" demoralised by one of the commonest tricks of warfare—namely, that of allowing a besieging enemy to indulge in a mock victory—has been decimated and disgraced. The victors are natives with brown skins, with tactics scarcely above those of animal instinct, and with weapons, be it remembered, supplied by our own mercantile colonists.

Herein lies the whole gist of the subject, beyond the primary question of why our soldiers happened to be there. "What the deuce was he in that galley for?" asks Molière's miser, when called upon to ransom his son from the Algerian pirate. What business had our "fighting 43rd" in an ambuscade in New Zealand?

The question may be easily answered, after a fashion. We can all remember that, a few years ago, when emigration was in vogue among a class unable to obtain a livelihood in England, placards were issued by the Government offering land in New Zealand at nominal prices, about one shilling per acre. Now this may have been fair. Commerce is fair, so far as it represents the equitable distribution among mankind of God's gifts. If one nation, savage, has a superabundance of land, and another, civilised, of industrial products, let them exchange by all means. But in our dealings with savages, as in that of Brennus with Rome, we cast the sword into the scale. And, as in his case, we do not always get the better of the bargain. We almost exterminated the North American Indians; we suffered defeat and disgrace at the hands of those whom we had helped to the soil. They completed the job which we had begun, and now are destroying each other. The silly old maxim which even yet finds its supporter in the British Senate, is that the so-called savage races are inevitably doomed to extirpation by the civilised communities. This is not only fallacious, but wicked. The tendency of civilisation is luxury; that of luxury, ruin. Rome was overrun by the Vandal, the Hun, and the Goth; Greece, in more modern days, by the Turks. So, in more ancient times, the Babylonian was crushed out of existence by the Persian, and the scientific Phœnician by the half-civilised Macedonian. We, of all races in the world, are to have no sympathy for aborigines! Who, pray, are we? The offspring of Britanni woad-painted savages, of expatriated Trojans, of Roman conscripts (originally the scum of Italian criminal fugitives), of Danish and Jute pirates, of Saxon hirelings, of Norman buccaneers, of Celtic barbarians, and of French exiles. It is we who are to pass and execute judgment of death upon a race who under another aspect of the sun bear deeper-tinted skins; and to insist upon it that the exigencies of our increasing population warrant us in committing murder and robbery at the opposite extremity of the hemisphere.

But it is in vain to appeal only to the moral sense upon this subject. Happily (we might say providentially, for all truth is providential), it comes to us under another form.

The business is, commercially and pecuniarily, as well as morally and philosophically, wrong. England sends out a small aggressive army, Heaven knows under what pretence. That army is defeated. While it exists it is supported by Britain for the benefit of the colonists, who receive their status almost gratuitously, contribute nothing to the national resources, and provoke fights which, by their results, disgrace us in the eyes of our neighbours. These very savages, who outwit us in strategy, are armed by our own colonists, for their own profit. Who sells to the Maoris, firearms, powder, tomahawks and knives? The very traders to whom we have allotted docks and wharves, for whom we have made roads, whom we have supplied with neighbouring customers by encouragement of emigration. They pay us no taxes, contribute in no way towards the maintenance of our State, unless it be, indeed, by the purchase of our manufactures, which they receive only upon free competition with those of other countries, to which their ports are equally open. In return for our generosity (call it maternal care, if you will), we receive invitations to fight their battles, and to be defeated by natives, whose intelligence, manliness, and valour, no less than their evident capacity for civilisation, ought to command our respect and amity.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES are likely to visit Ireland next month.

PRINCE WILLIAM OF PRUSSIA has arrived at Osborne on a visit to her Majesty, his grandmother.

KING LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM is now on a visit to the Emperor of the French at Vichy, where he arrived on Thursday. Some political significance is attached to this visit.

THE KING OF SPAIN is to pay a visit to France next month, in order to be present at the annual military evolutions in the camp at Châlons.

PRINCESS CLOTILDE, wife of Prince Napoleon, gave birth to a son on Saturday night last. Her Imperial Highness and the infant Prince, who has been named Napoleon Louis Joseph Jerome, are both doing well.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE is now able to take walking exercise.

THE EMPRESS JOSEPHINE, Napoleon's first wife, is to have a statue in Paris, on the square before the Alma bridge.

GARIBALDI embarked on Tuesday at Ischia for Capri. The General did not seem to be in good health.

MR. LOWE has been entirely exonerated by the Select Committee from the charge of having mutilated the reports of the inspectors of schools.

A COALITION MINISTRY has been formed in Canada pledged to secure the federation of the whole of the North American colonies.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT is about to dispatch a scientific expedition to the Pacific.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has given his medical attendant, Mr. Henry Thompson, of London, a fee of £4000 for curing him of stone.

SIR HUGH ROSE, it is again reported from India, is about to resign the command of the forces in that dependency; and it is expected that Sir William Mansfield will succeed to the vacant post.

A SPRING RACING MEETING is in future to be held at Ascot, in addition to the usual summer gathering.

DR. LISZT, the eminent pianist, formally denies the report, of late so often put forward, that he has the intention of embracing the monastic life.

MR. W. VERNON HARCOURT has been appointed junior counsel to the Attorney-General in matters connected with the Treasury, in the room of Mr. Welsby, deceased.

THE REV. WILLIAM CONWAY, who has just been appointed to the canonry of Westminster, vacant by the death of Dr. Cureton, took high honours at Cambridge in 1836, when he was tenth wrangler.

A TRADESMAN in Camden Town announces his intention to close on Thursdays at two o'clock during the months of July and August, "for the recreation of the employed."

AT thirty-three degrees elevation the Whitworth 12 pounder threw a projectile 8800 yards, or little short of five miles; and the Armstrong shunt gun only 6700 yards, or short of four miles.

M. JULES GERARD, known as the Lion Killer, has failed in an attempt to reach the interior of Africa by the route of Timbuctoo. He was attacked and plundered by the natives, and with difficulty escaped with his life.

THE FIRST STONE of the Thames Embankment was laid, on Wednesday, in front of Whitehall Stairs, by Mr. Thwaites, chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, accompanied by the Hon. W. Cowper, Lord John Manners, the engineers of the works, the contractors, and others.

THE *Reform*, the latest Conservative weekly paper, has met with no better success than most of its predecessors of the same political principles, and after an existence of some five months, has expired.

THE SUSPENSION IS ANNOUNCED of the East of England Joint-Stock Bank, the head office of which is in Norwich, and which has nine branches in the neighbouring towns.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT have addressed a circular to the European Powers inviting them to take part in an international Congress to be held in the autumn for the purpose of regulating telegraphic communications in Europe.

PROCEEDINGS are about to be taken against the persons who, at Leicester, destroyed Mr. Coxwell's balloon when he was about to make an ascent there. Unfortunately, Mr. Coxwell and his friends can only identify one of the rioters, who is to be tried at the next Quarter Sessions.

MR. BROWN, late of Tunbridge Wells, was backed by a gentleman to hit ninety-nine penny pieces thrown up in one hundred for £10, and he hit the whole hundred with one gun only. The same gentleman backed him to kill nineteen birds out of twenty-one; he killed twenty.

A MALAY made an attempt to murder the boatswain's mate of the ship *Norseman* in her last voyage from Bangkok. The fellow then jumped overboard. Rising in the water, he asked if his victim was dead, and, getting his answer, dived down and was never seen again.

SAMUEL HALL, a boy nine years of age, was travelling on the railway between Leeds and Shipley, when the door of the carriage in which he was sitting flew open, and he fell out and was killed.

THREE MATCH MANUFACTORIES in Boston, Massachusetts, owned by one man, consume twenty cords of wood (that is 2560 cubic feet) and 500 lb. of brimstone per day. Under the new tax of 1 per cent per box, the owner pays to the Government 1400 dollars a day in taxes.

ISAAC WATSON, servant with Mrs. Harrison, Driffield Wold, was summoned before the Rev. G. T. Clare, the Rev. R. H. Foord, and Mr. J. Grimston, and charged by George Lyon, Mrs. Harrison's manager, with refusing to attend church on Sunday, being requested by his mistress to do so. The defendant was ordered to attend some place of worship, and to pay expenses, 9s. 6d.

BALTIMORE HARBOUR, MARYLAND, has been literally set on fire by the burning of a vessel laden with petroleum. She had upwards of 1800 barrels on board, and, when the casks burst, the oil spread over the water in the harbour, thousands of square yards of which were in a blaze.

THE ALEXANDRIA, about which so much discussion lately took place in the Court of Queen's Bench, left the Mersey on Sunday for Nassau with a general cargo of merchandise. The name of the vessel, however, has been changed, and she is now called the *Mary*, and we believe she is now to be a trader between the Mersey and Nassau.

A COMMITTEE appointed by the Secretary of State for War has reported that it is advisable to arm the whole of the infantry of the British Army with breech-loading rifles. The recommendation is made in such a manner, and with such a weight of authority in its favour, that its adoption is to be anticipated with certainty.

A SERIOUS ACCIDENT occurred to the express train from London to Scotland, on Saturday night last, at Washington Station, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. One of the axletrees of the engine broke, the engine and several carriages ran off the line, which, together with the telegraph posts and wires, was torn up for a considerable distance. Several of the passengers were severely bruised and shaken, but no lives were lost or serious injuries sustained.

THE CONVICTS AT PORTLAND mutinied last week against a new dietary system, refused to work, and attacked one of the guards, who discharged his rifle and wounded a ringleader. Other warders arrived, but the mutiny was not suppressed until the military had been called in, and four or five of the convicts had been wounded by bullets.

THERE IS A BOY now living at Tresillian, near Truro, named Edward Weeks, who, although only twelve years of age, stands 5 ft. 6 in., is very bony, measures 43 in. round the waist, and is of the astounding weight of 180 lb., or about double that of an ordinary youth of the same age.

THE DUKE OF NEMOURS once sent his steward to call upon an artist on whom he wished to confer a snuff-box as a mark of his approbation to ascertain if such a present would be acceptable. The offer was received with enthusiasm. "Where shall I send it?" inquired the envoy. "Oh! if you would be kind enough," replied the grateful artist, "to pawn it on the way, you can let me have the money."

THE DRAMATIC COLLEGE FETE AND FANCY FAIR.

THE busy folk of London so seldom make holidays that the few they snatch from everyday work are especially enjoyable. There are Boxing Night in winter, the Derby in spring, and the Dramatic Charitable Fête, which is beginning to be looked for as part and parcel of the festivities of the year, in the extreme height of the summer season.

Our space will not permit us to notice all and everything that was to be seen at the Crystal Palace on Saturday last, or to dilate upon the splendour of one of the finest days accorded to us by our capricious climate. Neither can we, nor could anyone, save perhaps Mr. Alfred Tennyson or Mr. Browning, do justice to the charms of the fairer portion of the visitors. So much beauty was never seen under one dome except in these islands. It would have puzzled a painter or a Parisian modiste to say whether the faces were more indebted to the "fashions" or the costumes to the faces. It was a dream of fair women realised.

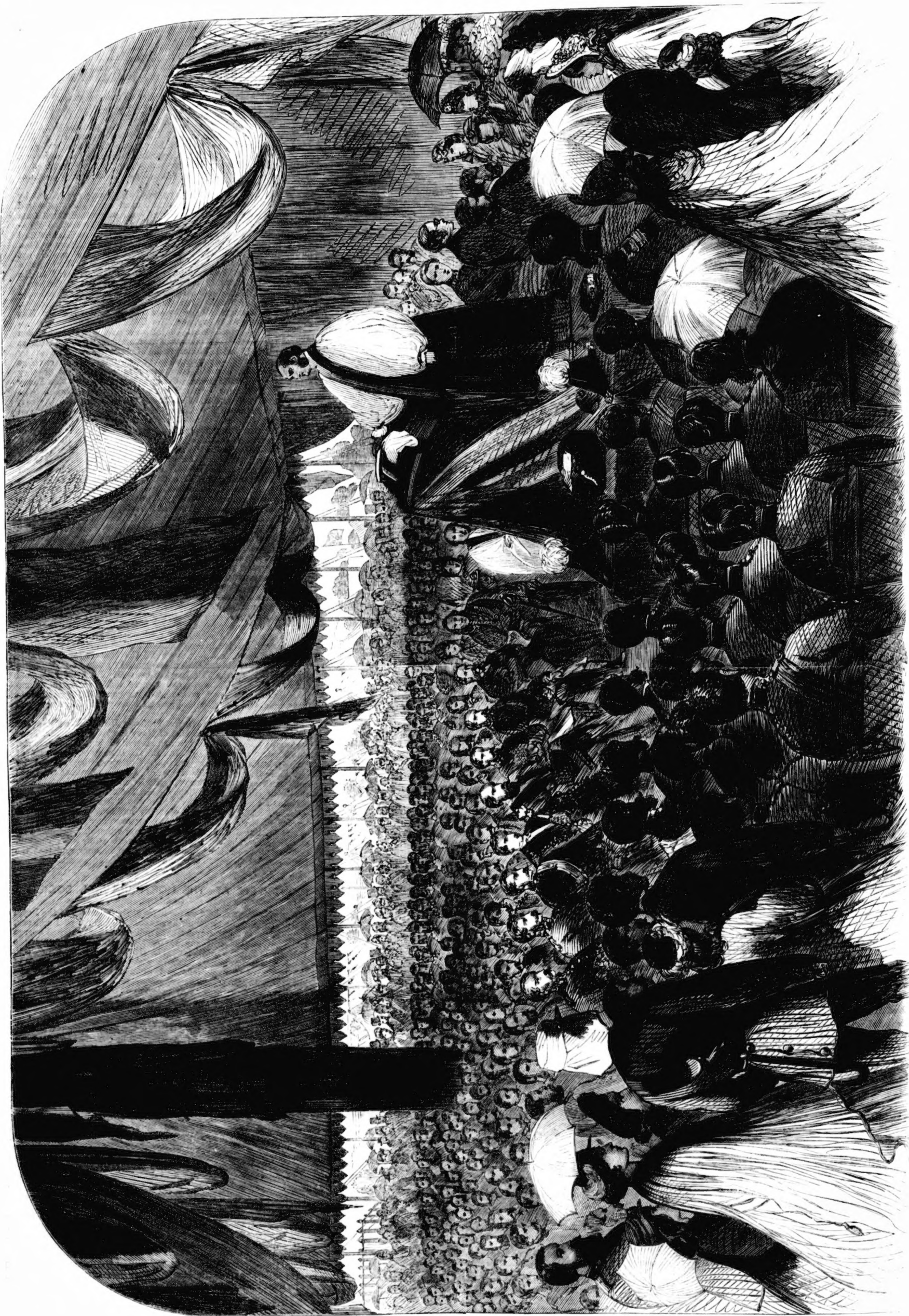
The ceremony of opening the fair, which was proclaimed by Mr. Robert Romer, the college herald, over, the visitors perceived that the arrangement of the fête in some respects differed from that of former occasions. The stalls no longer occupied three-fourths of the square which would have been well christened the "Crush;" Shakespeare's House—real Stratford-upon-Avon size—towered upon a raised platform, and the model not only contained rare and pleasant relics of the Bard, but a moving, speaking likeness of him "in his habit as he lived," in the person of Mr. Phillips, of the Adelphi. On one side of the house, Mrs. Stirling presided at a stall, and talked "stallkeeper" as naturally and as fluently as "in another place" she portrays passion, pathos, and character; close by her Miss Katherine Hickson, Miss Elsworth, Mrs. St. Henry, and Miss Lydia Maitland invited "customers" and obtained them. On the other side, Mrs. Alfred Mellon offered wares which, to quote business articles, "found favour at fancy prices;" and Miss Stella Colas, was surrounded by a surging crowd who, regardless of the integrity of crinoline and shirt-collar, elbowed each other as recklessly as if they had been at a Drawingroom. Other stalls were kept by Miss Fanny Hunt, Miss Lavine, Miss Minnie Davis, Miss Morelli, Miss Willard, Miss Sheridan, Mrs. Belton, Miss Constance Aylmer, Miss Alice Seaman, Miss Clara Thompson, and Miss Fanny and Miss Patti Josephs. Miss Georgie Bristowe was Postmistress-General at the Fairy Post Office, and Miss Polly Marshall presented the curious in affairs acrobatic to the Female Blondin. A hexagonal stall, opposite the house, was tenanted by Miss Cottrell, Miss Lindley, Miss Harleir, Miss Caroline Carson, Miss Kate Carson, and Mrs. Howard Paul. The *boutique* of the Misses Carson offered such a variety that it would be best described as being in the "general" line. The articles, however, that found most favour in the eyes of purchasers were photographs of the fair stallholders themselves. Mrs. Howard Paul, as if anticipating the flood of sunshine of a July day, sold a Dramatic College fan, manufactured for the occasion. This lady's own personal gloves, too, "went off" separately at a high figure; indeed, this was a very dangerous locality to linger near; for, in addition to the already mentioned ladies, Miss Wentworth dispensed braces, pincushions, and bonbons, and, though approach to the neighbourhood was by no means facile, it was still more difficult to get away.

Richardson's Show, where Mr. Paul Bedford and Mr. Toole appeared as the distressed maiden and the chivalric lover of the melodrama, was, as usual, one of the chief attractions of the fair. Wombwell's Menagerie, under the able superintendence of Mr. Addison, was a capital exhibition. Mr. John Clarke was the "proper rioter" of a Museum of Curiosities and of a Horse Show. Mr. J. Francis and Mr. Rivers exhibited the time-honoured humours of Punch and Judy. Mr. Buckstone did the honours for Aunt Sally. There was a Jack-in-the-Green, surrounded by Messrs. C. P. Smith, Mr. Robert Romer, and Mr. Stephenson, as My Lord, My Lady, and Clown. Messrs. Unsworth and Eugene made wonderful stump speeches and performed wonderful dances, and Mr. Gyngell made birds, bran, rice, and rabbits appear and disappear with marvellous celerity.

The last exhibition we saw was Professor J. L. Toole's Cabinet of Cabalistic Changes and Museum of Many Marvels, where Mr. Toole performed tricks of legerdemain, described in the programme, which was arranged by Mr. E. L. Blanchard, as feats of Paulo-presti-digi-tati-anki-panki-topsey-turvey-tation, assisted by Mr. Paul Bedford, as his Page or Boy in Buttons, who was announced as having been expressly brought over from the Green Bushes of High Berlevia Maboy. Mr. Toole was also assisted by his son, the veritable Master Toole, who distributed photographs, sweetmeats, and toys with a dexterity and rapidity worthy of the famous professor, his father. Passing over any mention of the efforts of amateurs, which, though well intentioned, were somewhat clumsy, it is pleasant to state that the whole affair was successful, that everybody left the palace in high good humour, and that the funds of the college will receive a considerable augmentation.

NIGHT FETE AT THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS.

A GRAND fete was held on the night of the 13th inst. at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, South Kensington, the Duke of Buccleuch, as president of the society, and the fellows, having invited a large and distinguished company to meet their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. The fete commenced at ten o'clock, and terminated at half-past twelve with a brilliant illumination of the whole of the gardens and of the cascade by blue and red Bengal lights. The reception took place in the conservatory, which was very elegantly decorated for the occasion. The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived at eleven o'clock, by which hour the conservatory was thronged by a brilliant assemblage of the aristocracy, about 2000 in number. A vacant space in the centre and in the transept was kept, through which the Princess of Wales, who was accompanied by the Duke of Buccleuch, walked, followed by the Prince of Wales leading the Duchess of Buccleuch, and by the suite. At the transept the Royal party were met by Lord and Lady Palmerston and Earl Granville. The Prince and Princess passed through the whole length of the building, receiving and returning the salutations of the company. The Royal party afterwards proceeded to the gallery, where they partook of some refreshment, and remained till twelve o'clock, listening to vocal and instrumental music, the latter performed by the band of the Royal Artillery, conducted by Mr. Smythe. In the mean time the company below resolved themselves into a conversation, refreshments being served in the arcades, which were profusely decorated and ornamented by the exhibition of statuary and rare pieces of porcelain. The whole of the grounds were thrown open and were filled with visitors, the scene being one of great elegance and beauty. At twelve o'clock the Royal party left the building and proceeded to the grounds, which were immediately lighted up, the blue and red fire producing a magnificent effect. The band of the 1st Middlesex Engineer Volunteers was present in the grounds, and played a selection of music during the illumination of the gardens. The whole of the company were in full evening dress, the officers in uniform and wearing their distinguishing medals. The Duke of Buccleuch, who received the company in the conservatory, wore the star and ribbon of the Garter. Lord Palmerston and Earl Granville also wore the blue ribbon. Altogether, this was one of the most brilliant meetings of the season.



THE WIMBLEDON MEETING: DIVINE SERVICE IN CAMP ON SUNDAY MORNING.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES BY THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE IN THE CONSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.



THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

"WELL, Blogg," said I to my gossip, meeting him in St. James's Park, "where have you been? I have not seen you since the grand crash." "Been coasting, my friend, in my Lord Polkington's schooner yacht." "Then you were out of the way when the fight came off?" "Out of the way: heard of it at Boulogne, where we put in for a night; read all about it at the Hotel du Nord there." "Well, what did you think of it?" "Think of it! Why, that we got a tremendous licking?" "A licking, indeed; such a thrashing as your party will not get over, Mr. Blogg, for many a long day." "By Jove! you're right. We shall never do anything, I see clearly, so long as the old boy leads your fellows. He's simply invincible, is that old fellow; but if he were out of the way, I think we should thrash you." "Do you? I don't. The division has made me think better of the Liberal chances of holding the Government than I ever did. You are weaker in rank and file, and worse off for leaders, than ever you were." "Rank and file! Why, we got within twenty of you, and we had lots of fellows away." "Yes; but look at the composition of your rank and file. Government had a majority of sixty-one English and Scotch members. Ponder that, Mr. Blogg." "True, I see all that; but the Irish have votes." "Yes, but be sure that no man can govern this country with an Irish majority any more than you could build a castle upon an Irish bog or a light-house upon a quicksand. If, therefore, you had a majority of the whole, which you have not, supposing it were an Irish majority, you could not carry on through one Session." "But we shall have a general election soon, and then, no doubt, we shall increase our strength in England, if not in Scotland. I don't think we shall do much in Scotland, for the Scotch, confound them, are almost all Rads." "No, nor in England either. And now you have got such a majority in Ireland you are less likely than you were to increase your numbers from England, for a feeling is spreading like leaven through England that it was not without reason that the Irish Roman Catholics rallied round your standard." "But you don't believe that our fellows bargained with the Irish?" "I believe! I am not talking about my opinion upon the matter; I, of course, know that there was no bargain. Neither do I think that an opinion anywhere prevails that there was. The feeling is, I suspect, simply this, that this rallying of the Irish to support the Conservative leaders is a proof that at Rome and elsewhere the Conservatives are thought to be more likely to aid the reactionary party in Europe than the Liberals are. And I need not tell you, after the reception which Garibaldi got, that the reactionary party finds no favour here. But here is another element of weakness in your alliance. John Bull, apart from the feeling I have alluded to, has a strong national prejudice. England and Ireland are united by Act of Parliament; but the two races have never been united, and never will be. And rely upon it that the English people will never consent to have Parliament controlled by an Irish majority; and if Palmerston were to dissolve Parliament now, my opinion is that he would get a stronger English and Scotch majority than he has now."

"But what did Lord Polkington say when he heard the news? I have a high opinion of his Lordship's talents, and once thought that he would take a prominent position in the Conservative party. I suppose he was very angry." "Not at all, at first. Polkington is a philosopher, let me tell you, and takes everything very coolly. When I read the news to him he said, 'Ah! floundering in the ditch again, are they? Well, I take but little interest in their movements now. They had a golden opportunity once; but in their passion and ignorance they threw it away.' 'What do you allude to,' said I, 'for I was puzzled. Why, to their conduct after their defeat in the free-trade fight, when they drove out of their ranks all the men of their party who had brains—I mean the followers of Sir Robert Peel. These men were all Conservatives, and might have been kept in the Conservative ranks. For a long time they stood aloof from the Whigs, waiting for the olive branch of peace to be held out to them by their old associates. But no advances were made; no reconciliation attempted; and the Peelites slowly gravitated towards the Whigs, and at length got into the Whig Ministry. And since then I have looked upon the case of the Conservative party as quite hopeless. It may by accident get into power, as in 1852, and again in 1858; but it never can hold it long. When Palmerston goes it may possibly once more take the reins; but, unless some revolution of parties should occur, leading to new combinations, which I cannot foresee, it will soon drop them out of its feeble hands.' 'Well, why don't you go in, and give them the benefit of your advice?' said I. 'And what did he say to that? I should like to hear, for I have often wondered why he should stand so aloof.' 'Well, he did then get angry. Striking his hand upon the table, he shouted out, 'No, Blogg. I could not rule the blockheads, and I will not be ruled by them.' So I said no more. But I must be off, for it's seven o'clock, and I am to dine with him to-day."

You remember that Gladstone, in his answer to Disraeli, alluded to an epitaph in Chiselhurst-churchyard. By the kindness of a friend I have got a copy of this curious inscription, and now send it to you:—

Let not this melancholy proof
Of the insufficiency of virtues, even such as these—
So great, so winning, and so mild—
To shield them at the midnight hour against atrocities so monstrous,
Induce the belief that Virtue has not the care of Providence below.

Rather let it be remembered
That none could have been better prepared for an event so awful;
That from them were not alone averted the many sufferings
Attendant upon a dissolution in the common course of nature;
But that, full of honours and of years,
Loaded with the blessings and veneration of all who knew them,
And each unconscious of the other's fate,
They only slept to wake in Heaven.

Nor be it omitted here to record
Their constant prayer, their fervent wish,
So frequently expressed, so mysteriously fulfilled,
That they might leave this world together.

Horrible, indeed, for the survivors have been the mode of its fulfilment.
Still, may they be allowed to think
That it was permitted in mercy to those whom they deplore,
And perhaps as a signal reward for such virtues
As have been rarely seen united.

To the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Ann Bonar, who were murdered while asleep by their domestic servant on the 31st May, 1813.

Decidedly the season is drawing to an end. The Royal Italian Opera announces the close of its season for next week, and there are other outward and visible signs that fashion and finance are ordered coastwards. In the streets I meet heavy family coaches, with the family inside, both the gentlemen and the ladies with a fatigued expression of face—it has been a hard-working season—and valet and ladies-maid in the rumble, the valet looking frowningly and the ladies-made a statue of well-bred solemnity. Happy folks, you are about to exchange your gibuses and black cloth, your wreaths and arabesque ball-dresses, for shooting-coats, knickerbockers, straw hats, and yachting-jackets, the parks for the moors, and the carriage-drive for the blue, broad, open offing. May I soon be with you!

Paterfamilias of all ranks will be glad to hear that the Rev. Mr. Woodward has succeeded in establishing three colleges for the instruction of the lower section of the middle classes. That earnest gentleman has discovered that a sound commercial education—which, I should presume, includes a knowledge of at least one foreign language—board, and lodging, and washing can be given for £16 per annum. I say Paterfamilias of all classes have reason to rejoice, for, if a good solid education can be obtained for so small a sum as £16, surely the accomplishments and the graces may in time become less expensive than at present, when the scholastic requirements of a large family of boys make so terrible an inroad on the income of a professional man.

I paid the Scandinavian Gallery a visit the other day, to see Zuccoli's portrait of Garibaldi. I can't say that I was much struck with it. It seems to want the noble "leonine" look of the General. There is also to be seen a duplicate of the picture by the same artist which was presented to Garibaldi at the Crystal Palace in

April—"The Italian Colours." Like the portrait, it seems to me to have a weakness which very considerably detracts from its effect; indeed, I think both pictures would be likely to pass unnoticed were they not connected with the great Liberator of Italy. In this same gallery, by-the-way, will be found one or two of the pictures which were spoken of highly in the recent French Exhibition in Paris. The best of them, to my thinking, is Sorensen's picture—a steamer in the North Sea, with the waves running pretty high. I don't think I ever saw waves so well drawn or so truthfully coloured; and I say this with the full recollection of such marine-painters as Stanfield and Hayes. A "Remembrance of Italy," by Gronland, is clever, as is a winter scene by Cordes; and "L'Adieu," another importation from the French Exhibition, by Mlle. Wagner, is very creditable to so young an artist. There is also exhibited a "Sleeping Venus," attributed, I should say on insufficient grounds, to Titian. The delicacy of colour is gone, I may be told; but age does not affect the drawing of a picture much, and the left hand of this figure is very queer.

The Dramatic College Annual of Saturday last must have astounded a few purchasers, certainly none more than the respectable members of the profession the programme of whose fête it pretended to give under sanction of proper authority. It is quite certain that there could have been no committee of taste to consider its publication. It was filled with dull, unreadable articles, esoteric personalities, apparently intended for withering sarcasms, and pointless jokes.

In a week or two we are to have a new novel which, without being sensational in its incidents, is certain to create a sensation in the novel-reading world. It is from the pen of the author of "Sir Victor's Choice"—a story that excited some little attention at the time it was published from the promise which it held out, a promise which is said to be more than fulfilled in the forthcoming work. "Denis Donne" is the name of the new novel, and the publishers are Tinsley Brothers.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THERE are only four theatres now open at the West-end of town, and neither of them has offered any change of programme. Several novelties are, according to the advertisements, in preparation at the ADELPHI; and the last few nights of Mlle. Stella Colas are announced at the PRINCESS'S, when a new drama is to take the place of "The Monastery of St. Just."

The only theatrical news of the week is the holding of the annual Fête and Fancy Fair in aid of the funds of the Royal Dramatic College, which took place on Saturday and Monday last at the CRYSTAL PALACE at Sydenham. Everybody is talking about it, and telling everybody else who they saw, who they chatted with, who they flirted with, and who they purchased of. Enthusiastic young men—ay, and some on the other side the half-century, too—pull back their waistcoats and exhibit embroidered braces which they boast of having bought of Miss pretty Christian name Blank at the Fancy Fair. Some show pipes, which are to be found at sordid and prosaic shops for the sum of threepence, but for which they paid half-a-crown to a large-eyed fairy in crisp muslin, and which they suck at with a relish evidently the offspring of sentiment rather than love of tobacco. A few minutes before I left the palace a young friend of mine, whom I had seen hovering near the enchanted ground tenanted, on the one side, by Mlle. Stella Colas, and, on the other, by Mrs. Howard Paul, the Misses Carson, and Miss Wentworth, stopped me and said, "I say, old fellow, look here; so glad to find you. I want to dine, you know, and I've got no money left. I brought plenty down with me, but I've spent it all in whatsonames, and I didn't know I'd spent it till I found my portemonnaie empty, and I haven't had any dinner, you know; I am starving, and hunger is a sharp thorn, you know." Pitying this case of genteel indigence, I lent my young friend a small sum, which I hope he invested with Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, the contractors for refreshments.

What can people suppose actors and actresses are like when off the stage? I heard so many exclamations of astonishment and even disappointment at their extraordinary resemblance to other people. At Toole's sleight-of-hand performance, that capital comedian and highly-estimable man was assisted by his son, a boy of about nine years of age, and I heard feminine voices near me remark with surprise that Master Toole wore a velvet knickerbocker suit like ordinary mortals of the same age—that he was wonderfully like his father—and, strangest thing of all, that they, the Tooles, *pere et fils*, seemed fond of each other. Did these worthy folks expect to see the child of a celebrated actor attired as the boy Bacchus? or had they imagined that the use of rouge and the glare of footlights blunted the natural feelings and blighted the paternal and filial affections?

MR. DANIEL O'CONNELL, writing from Killarney, reports that two steamers were seen fighting off the Bull Rock on Monday evening (11th), supposed to be Americans. One vessel seemed to be on fire. One went to the north, the other out to sea, after a while. The Bull Rock is just to the north of Bantry Bay. A similar report also comes from Fécamp, on the French coast, between Havre and Dieppe.

AT THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS, on Tuesday, the draught of a bill prepared by the President of the Poor-Law Board was read. The bill is intended to provide refuges for the casual poor of London who may be found homeless in the streets between eight in the evening and eight in the morning, the expense to be levied by an equitable rate all over London, to be collected with the Metropolitan Board of Works rate.

A VERY HEAVY THUNDERSTORM passed over Wiltshire and a portion of Dorsetshire on Sunday. At Shaftesbury some corn stores were fired by the lightning and burnt. At Warminster the water was ten or twelve inches deep in the streets. Some trees were splintered by the lightning, and at Corsham an old woman, named Mary Haines, was struck down and seriously injured. Her cottage was fired, and the flames soon spread to three other cottages adjoining, which were totally destroyed.

THE SEAMAN'S ASSOCIATION at Drontheim, Christiansund, and Nalesund, in Norway and Sweden, have, through Charles Tottie, Esq., the Swedish Consul-General, forwarded the handsome contribution of £59 13s. to the National Life-boat Institution in admiration of the great and important services which its life-boats have occasionally rendered to their countrymen shipwrecked on the coasts of the United Kingdom. Last winter the Southport life-boat of the institution saved, during a very heavy gale of wind, seventeen persons from the barque Tamworth, of Skien, Norway.

THE REPORTED SEA-FIGHT OFF JERSEY.—The report of a fight having taken place off Jersey between the Kearsarge and the Florida turns out to have been a hoax. The following explanation is given of the affair:—"A party of friends was made up last Wednesday at St. Heliers, Jersey, for a land excursion round the island. One of the number, however, ultimately declined to go. When the excursionists reached Gorey they joyously met him a telegram stating that he had lost a great treat by remaining behind, as they had witnessed a magnificent fight between the Kearsarge and Florida. They added that the Kearsarge was beaten and had sought shelter in Gorey, and that the Florida was off the Minquies waiting to renew the contest. This telegram was shown to two or three persons, and the engineer of the steamer Wonder heard one of them speak about it just as the vessel was leaving for Southampton on Wednesday evening. When he mentioned the circumstance on board the Wonder some of the more imaginative passengers, at once fancied they had heard distant firing during the day."

KIDNAPPING BY THE FEDERALS.—Letters have just been received in Hull from two men who have been kidnapped into the Federal service. One of them is from a man named Dossor, who left Hull for New York about twelve months ago. He was by trade a painter, and one day he was sent for by a person who offered him a very good job—one, in fact, by which he was to make his fortune. He was asked to drink over the bargain, and did so. Soon afterwards he became insensible, and when he again recovered consciousness he found that he had been transformed into a Federal soldier. He was sent to a depot, where, with several other English "recruits," he was drilled heavily every day, and after a few weeks was sent to join the army, where at the date of the letter he was compelled to fight in the ranks. The other letter has been received by Mr. Whitman, hatter, Waterworks-street, Hull. It is from his nephew, who states that he left Liverpool in an American ship. On the voyage he was very much ill-used by the captain and crew, and he states that immediately on being landed he was seized by soldiers and taken by force to an island near New York, the name of which he does not give. Here he met with several other Englishmen, all of whom had been impressed into the Federal service. This letter, which is dated June 23, states that the recruits were being drilled daily, and that the writer expected almost hourly to receive orders to join the army. He complains loudly that the British Government does not interfere to prevent these scandalous outrages upon Englishmen, apparently forgetting that by going to America and on board an American ship he forfeited all reasonable claim upon the country he deserted.

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The Queen's English. (*Stray Notes on Speaking and Spelling.*) By HENRY ALFORD, D.D., Dean of Canterbury.

The Dean's English. By G. WASHINGTON MOON, F.R.S.L., Second Edition. Hatchard and Co.

The great Moon-Alford storm in a saucer is as well known as the fable of the Wolf and the Lamb. When the Dean stated publicly that he had invited Mr. Moon to dinner, the excited universe supposed the controversy to be practically ended. There was, doubtless, a simmering sort of expectation that Mr. Moon would invite Dean Alford to tea; but that expectation was doomed to disappointment. The Washington Moon is not sufficiently mollified. He is the kind of man (we all know and love the type, don't we?) who accepts your apology for having offended him, says, "Oh! yes, I freely forgive you, you miserable muff" (shaking hands)—freely and finally, of course—"But don't do it again!—and (raising a fist), by-the-way, what did you do it for?" In other words, this Censor (he likes the name, and sticks it in his hat for a feather) is a person of an insatiable self-esteem. Once get his back up, you may stroke him down for ever and not pacify him. Who does not know a specimen or two of this complacently implacable breed? You ask your gentleman to dinner, and hope it is made up, and that the subject is dropped. Pooh! You invite him into the country for a fortnight's shooting. Pooh! You lend him a ten-pound note. Pooh! Can't you get him a pension, or a place under Government, or send him to Australia, or have him shut up in a lead-mine? It's your only chance, you may depend upon it. Well, Mr. Moon sticks to Dean Alford like a barnacle to a ship's bottom; and, as he will probably stick for everlastingly, and go on making capital out of the controversy as long as there is a drop of blood left in it to suck, we advise the Dean to make the best of it by attaching Mr. Moon to his person, or his function, in some capacity where the Censor would have plenty of "moving-on" to do, and plenty of conspicuous ornament—say, not less than sixteen yards of gold lace, a pair of epaulettes, a frogged coat, and a very knobbed stick to carry. Probably there may be some such berth on some caputular foundation, where the Dean has influence; he will find it cheap to take our advice and shelve Mr. Moon, if he will consent to be shelved.

We speak in parables, and shall not be misunderstood. Mr. Moon wants nothing of Dean Alford. He only wants to humiliate him. He goes in for glory and good English. When we talk of "shelving" we mean this:—Let not Dean Alford stick at trifles. Let him pay for an advertisement in the *Times* conceived in some such terms as these:—"I, H. A., do hereby humbly confess myself an ass, and do avow my conviction that G. W. M. is a Seraphic Doctor—in English—who is always in the right." Whether this would or would not close the matter we cannot say, but we feel persuaded it must come to public penance of some very severe kind.

A thrilled and attentive posterity will easily decide upon the real literary merits of the Moon-Alford squabble. In his criticisms of the Dean's own style, the illustrious Moon was generally right. In his criticisms of the Dean's criticism he was, and is, generally wrong. For instance, in that very question about "it is I" and "it is me," he is utterly off the track; while Dr. Latham and Dr. Alford are right.

We decline to waste words about obvious things. Dean Alford's book may be read with great benefit; for his criticisms of the blunders of others are, we repeat, generally right. His style, however, is (as the Americans say) "newspaperial"—in point of *looseness*, though not in point of *magniloquence*. On the whole, he writes like a scholar and a thinker; while Mr. Moon (who has, we still insist, greatly the advantage in neatness, accuracy, and smoothness) writes like a schoolmaster who has read chiefly in albums.

Mr. Moon, with execrable taste, prints, at the end of this unnecessary book, some of his verses (we lately reviewed the whole volume), and some of the criticisms of an enlightened press. We will make one more attempt to penetrate the armour-plating of Mr. Moon's self-esteem by adding this:—If he will really look at these "criticisms," he will discover that the sentences of praise are either commonplace without meaning, or carefully evasive in their construction.

It is the more necessary to say this, because one constantly sees cases in which indifferent books are floated into popularity on the backs of reviews which a writer with an ounce of self-respect would consider little short of insulting.

NEW NOVELS.

A Fatal Error; or, the Vyvianes. By F. MASTERMAN. 2 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.

The Portent: A Story of the Second Sight. By GEORGE MACDONALD, Author of "Within and Without," &c. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Blythe House. By R. F. H. Virtue Brothers and Co.

For two reasons it is impossible to reject the idea of considering these three novels together. The first is, that they all turn upon the same subject—that of a young lady being protected by people to whom she does not precisely belong; and the second is that in every other particular they differ as much as any three things of the same kind can.

The "Fatal Error" is a story of English provincial life and manners in the early part of the present century, when the nation, while glorying in the fact that George III. was King, was somewhat sobered by the reflection that George IV. was Regent. It begins with a capital series of chapters describing the election for a pocket Dorsetshire borough—a borough, at least, so far pocket that nobody could say which of two powerful gentlemen could put their hands into it. The right man is successful; and, as the important business of depositing a very young, well-bred, and curious kind of girl from India with her vulgar and uneducated relatives on her mother's side has been already negotiated, the love-making begins, and the novel is in full swing. What the "Fatal Error" may be it is difficult to say. It may be the error of a handsome, fascinating young dandy marrying miserably below his station; and which incident is repeated, but in a milder degree. Or the fatal error may be that of a brilliant flirt, who enslaves a raw, half-polished, and pert young dandy farmer for a whole season, and thereby leads him to commit a revengeful murder on feeling himself jilted and jeered. We have no intention of describing the plot, which would make too long a story, and which is too good to deserve having its interest anticipated. A glance at the variety of character will be far more to the purpose. There is a hearty old squire, with two sons, two daughters, and an amiable second wife. These are all excellent. The daughters develop into a flirt and a sensible girl, and marry according to their deserts. The elder son is a splendid specimen of a languid East Indian Captain, and the younger the most rascally, but yet sensible and sentimental, Midy that the Royal Navy ever turned out. It is easy to add that there are specimens of the Church, and a daring photograph of Dissent, together with a brace of the best maiden aunts of the season, and the customary outsiders. The Vyvianne himself, an Indian Major, is scarcely so real as the rest. He has made a hasty plebeian love-match, and colours at the mention of his dead wife; certainly does not like one half of his daughter (the heroine's) mingled blood, and—marries again, with but very indifferent success. For the rest, Mr. Masterman's writing is decidedly good. He has got a "last," and sticks to it; and when the "last" is tolerably respectable, it makes a very fair winning-post. His characters are good; and he does not object to extraneous incidents that will bring them forth. Moreover, he can describe well. The description of the Valley of Desolation amongst the moorlands, and the incidents that take place there, are given with an artist's power and naturalness far more than is usual with many novelists. And when the workmen are imprisoned in the fallen mine the writing is quite alive. Of the laughable election scene, we may remark that the fun of it was probably suggested by Sir Edward Lytton's young friend, Henry Pelham, and that the exciting passage with which it closes suggests reminiscences of the danger-loving and perfectly cool company in which Mr. Charles Lever is so often found.

Everybody knows Mr. Austen's (from the German) "Story Without an End," and the conclusion of "Rasselas," in which nothing is concluded. The admirers of B. Disraeli have only political harangues to console them for the mortifying manner in which the careers of "Vivian Grey" and "Tancred" are cut off. It took at least an Irishman to cut off the other end of a rope: but here is Mr. George MacDonald, in "The Portent," actually cutting off the end which we have in our hands. The story undoubtedly has an end; but whether it has a beginning, whether we can hold that end in our hands, appears altogether vague. The story, or something like it, has already appeared in the *Cornhill Magazine*, and now, artistically finished, it will be read with eagerness by those amusing people who are fond of things which nobody understands. "The inner vision of the Highlanders, commonly called the Second Sight," appears to mean, according to "The Portent," that a man may have the accident to share with a certain woman a mysterious unity, combined with duality, which shall lead her into his presence whenever he may choose to "will" it. Moreover, they will hear the tramp of a horse with one shoe clanking loose; and after having quarrelled with all their friends and associates, talked far more incomprehensibly with Scotch nurses a hundred years old than can possibly be pleasant, and tried to frighten their readers to death, they will elope with a Sergeant of Dragoons, get all the withheld property, and live happily ever afterwards.

"Blythe House" is a very quiet, pleasant story. Only towards the close do any exciting incidents occur; and then, the chief one, an elopement, has been previously expected, and the next, an old lady setting herself on fire, has actually nothing whatever to do with the reader. If writers will not endeavour to be somewhat dramatic, and sparing of incident which assists neither character nor story, they must expect to be denounced as dull. "R. F. H." does not actually say what the inmates of Blythe House have for dinner, but his minuteness is past all bounds. And yet there is interest in the narrative, which abounds with hearty and common sense, and has the merit of being faithful to life and manners. The readers must expect plain people; but they will be liked when they are met. Dr. Blank and James Mackinnon make us think better of the world, and of marriage, and many other things; and the women who cluster round the mansion are in no way their worse halves. The readers of quiet stories which thus do good by stealth will appreciate "Blythe House" correctly; but it will scarcely be agreeable to the taste of people, say, with second sight.

THREE SPIRITUALIST BOOKS.

Spiritualism, with Facsimiles of Spirit Writing. By J. H. POWELL. F. Pitman.
Spirit Drawings. A Personal Narrative. By W. M. WILKINSON. Second Edition. F. Pitman.
The Two Worlds—the Natural and the Spiritual. By THOMAS BREVIER. F. Pitman.

We have before now said, in these columns, what we think of "Spiritualism"—using the word in the restricted sense to which the books before us confine it. Our opinion is not altered by anything contained in these volumes. On the contrary, we are lost in amazement at the incapacity—either to appreciate evidence or to "try back" to an assumption—displayed by the writers. We positively and distinctly assert that there is not a "fact" recorded by these converts to the most contemptible of "causes" for which it would not be easy to invent explanations at the rate of sixty an hour (or one per minute) quite independently of any "spiritual" hypothesis whatever. As to the assumptions, we are afresh surprised that people of intelligence should coolly take for granted, as they do, the whole of the mythology of the vulgar (to begin with), and then—referring the "manifestations" to the "agencies" whose existence (existence in the way, and for the ends, and with the relations specified in the mythology) is assumed—should really suppose they have made out a case. It is perfectly notorious that the words "spirit" and "matter" only cover our ignorance. It is perfectly notorious that there are nearly as many different opinions about angels and the state after death as there are sects in the Christian Church—three, at least, standing out prominently from the rest; 1, the doctrine of an intermediate state, or a *hades* for all spirits; 2, the doctrine of a simple heaven and hell immediately subsequent upon death; and, 3, the doctrine of the suspension of consciousness between death and the resurrection (the last was, during part of his life, the doctrine of Robert Hall). That these different shades of belief about the "spirit-world" do actually exist among avowed Christians, is, we repeat, notorious. But this only brings us to the threshold of the case. Every man's creed has a philosophical "tag" of some kind. Now (to take one example out of the practically infinite possibilities of the situation), the Leibnizian doctrine of a "pre-established harmony" might be believed in by an adherent of either of the three views we have put; and then arise no end of fresh variations upon the old theme. The fact is, the majority of cultivated people hold opinions about the "spirit-world" (to use our friends' phrase), which can't and won't make room for these manifestations. Briefly, then, when you, the "medium" people, have done your best, you have done nothing to the purpose. There may be a logically infinite gulf to be bridged over before we can consent to call your "manifestations" the work of "spirits." We may have to admit occult forces, and we shall not be slow to say that the love and wisdom of God are in the *forces themselves*; but that possibility is yet a long way off. We (the writer of these lines) were at one time habitually brought face to face with the extreme phenomena of mesmerism, and that in the person of a sister. We are a long way past being taken off our feet by "mediums," and have, moreover, a very bad opinion of them. A few are obviously honest; a few more are half-honest. But the majority we believe to be the very basest of mankind. Does the reader remember the execrable Westervelt, a character in the late Mr. Hawthorne's "Blithedale Romance"? He is a fine specimen of the type that elsewhere takes the name of Sludge; and if any one can show us a more loathsome worm we shall be glad to see him—in a novel, mind; not in real life.

We deeply regret that a gentleman like Mr. Wilkinson (who must not be confounded with Mr. Garth Wilkinson) should have lost his way into these miserable mazes of Westerveltism; but we respectfully congratulate him on the success with which he has come out of the dangers of the situation. His book is one of the sweetest and noblest we ever read. Mr. Powell is an old acquaintance of this journal, and has greatly improved as a writer since we met him last. Brevier has produced a book which may be read with interest; and him, too, like Mr. Powell, we can sincerely respect and wish well to.

Mr. Pitman, the publisher, has evidently a good deal of independence and candour; and, if he will take care that Swedenborgians and "spiritualists" do not work him too hard, he may do good service to literature.

The House Among the Hills. Smith, Elder, and Co.

The author of these poems has had the fortune, or misfortune, of Sir Roger de Coverley—at least, so we gather from the poems—or, in other words, he has fallen in love with an obdurate widow. His writing bears every trace of sincerity, and is always magnanimous in tone. The lady ought to be proud of so constant an affection as that which she seems to have inspired. All we care to say to the author—and that is more in the way of homiletics than of criticism—is that he, too, is a happy man, even though he never wins the widow. Having found the pearl of price—namely, love—let him keep it. Let him take care his recollections are not sullied; and even that their vividness does not fade as time passes on. It is worth while to take pains about this; for he will never find anything more precious than this same love, even though the "reciprocity" should continue to be "all on one side." May the time never come to him when, looking back on these verses, he shall say, "What a spooney fellow I was then!" It rests with himself to steer clear of that degradation. As for his verses he has done the best thing he will ever succeed in doing in that line, and he had better turn his hand now to some work of more palpable usefulness.

OUR FEUILLETO

SOMETHING ABOUT DARFOUR AND ITS PEOPLE.

THE Sheikh Mohammed-Ebn-Omar-el-Tounay is an Arab gentleman who is much given to excursions into distant lands, and who is further addicted to publishing his travelling impressions as soon as he returns home. After that, who will say that the Arabs are not civilised? The latest book of Sheikh Mohammed's which we have met with is on the subject of Darfour, a very safe sort of country for a traveller to write about—far safer than the Gaboon, for instance—as no literary man, except the Sheikh, has ever been there. However, Dr. Perron, a French physician resident at Alexandria, knows Sheikh Mohammed, and is of opinion that his work is the work of a truth-speaking man. Considering what highly-unvarnished books of travel the French themselves produce, it may be objected that this testimony on the part of a Frenchman is liable to some suspicion, especially as Dr. Perron appears before the public as the translator of the Sheikh's volume. But the work may be true from beginning to end; if false, it is impossible to contradict it; and, whether false or true, it possesses one merit which it is impossible to deny—that of being highly entertaining.

Darfour, it appears, is the third country in the Soudan, travelling from east to west. The mountains called Marra traverse Darfour from north to south, and the inhabitants of this chain are said by the Sheikh to be as thoroughly savage as can well be imagined. Our traveller, himself an African, and duly provided with a firman signed by the Sultan of Darfour himself, felt, when he risked himself among these tribes, that his life was every moment in danger.

Not, however, that the inhabitants of the Marra Mountains are an ill-natured set of people. On the contrary, they are remarkable for their amiability; but the demon of curiosity sometimes tempts them; and when a man whose skin is not perfectly black makes his appearance in one of their villages they are inclined to deprive him of it, with the view of ascertaining at their ease in what respect it differs from their own. Thus it happened that when the Sheikh first came into contact with one of these eccentric tribes he was received willingly enough, until at length a discussion arose on the subject of their visitor's skin, when one of the chiefs—apparently the Erasmus Wilson of the district—stepped forward and announced, through the medium of an interpreter, that he should like to kill him. The point was worth disputing about, and the Sheikh commenced, like a true philosopher, by inquiring what object they proposed to gain by his death.

"They are an ignorant, brutal set of men," replied the interpreter, apologetically; "but they are determined to kill you. One of them says that you must have come into the world in an unfinished state, before your skin had acquired the proper dye. Another complains that it is so thin he expects every moment to see the blood start through it. A third maintains that you have not a pint of decent blood in your whole body, and in order to test the point they wish to pierce you with sharp instruments, in order to see how much you will really yield."

The Sheikh positively objected to lend himself to this highly scientific experiment, and finding that, like some other philosophers, his hosts absolutely refused to listen to argument, he collected his attendants around him and made a push for some less learned locality.

The inhabitants of the Marra Mountains are not particular as to their diet. We are told that they eat any kind of flesh, either half cooked or raw, and that they do not object to it even if it be in a state of corruption. Altogether, it appears probable that if the Sheikh had been made the subject of their surgical experiments they would have been at no trouble to dispose of his remains, for some of them had just come in from a long walk, and must have been hungry.

The Sheikh gives some particulars about the Sultans of Darfour which are less terrible and quite as interesting as those relating to the wild tribes of the Marra chain. On ascending the throne, the Chief of the Government has a week's holiday given him, during which a pleasant state of anarchy seems to prevail. The Sultan remains shut up for a week in his palace without doing anything or seeing anybody. If any offences are committed in any part of his dominions, so much the worse for the sufferers. The ruler is taking his repose, and nothing is suffered to disturb him.

When the seven days are at an end the Sultan begins work in earnest, and opens his divan; but it is not to every one who applies for redress that he will condescend to speak. Prince Windischgratz is reported to have said that "Man began at barons;" all beneath that rank being regarded by the Austrian oligarch as helping to form the long-sought link between the human being and the baboon. The Sultan of Darfour seems to entertain a similar opinion, though whether he derives it from Prince Windischgratz or Prince Windischgratz from him does not appear. However that may be, the Darfourian despot, as a rule, never speaks to anyone, rich or poor, weak or powerful, except through the medium of certain interpreters selected and appointed by himself. As the Sheikh calls those functionaries interpreters, "and not intermediaries," we may fairly infer that there is a Royal language which it is only given to a few favoured ones to understand, and that his Supreme Majesty is supposed to have no knowledge whatever of the vulgar tongue. There is a touch of despotism about this which our Emperors of the West never even dreamt of, but we do not despair of seeing the hint taken by some of them in proper time.

It is a difficult thing to be a really successful courtier in any country, but in Darfour it is also a very painful one. When the Sultan goes out on horseback, which happens every day, if he falls from his horse, which happens very often, all the courtiers are obliged forthwith to imitate his example. Anyone who neglects this ceremony and remains in his saddle, is first of all, thrown to the ground, so as to put him on an equality with the others, and then belaboured in the most unmerciful manner with a stick so as to teach him to behave better another time.

There is only one Sultan in Darfour, but there are a great many kings; probably these are the interesting persons who act as his Supreme Majesty's "interpreters." The minor majesties are, strangely enough, named after the different parts of his Majesty's body; which proves, what we have noticed before, that the Darfourians have a great taste for surgery.

King the First is named "ORONOLON," signifying the Sultan's Head. He it is who leads the van in time of war and directs the hunt in time of peace.

King the Second, called "ABA-OMAN"—that is to say, the Spinal Vertebra—commands the rearguard.

King the Third, or KAMEH—which, being interpreted, means his Majesty's Neck—is placed in a most delicate position. When his Majesty is in danger his Majesty's Neck is in danger; and if the Sultan gets killed in battle or elsewhere, and Kameh has the impertinence to come home alive he is forthwith executed, as a warning to all future Necks. This may be called the *ne plus ultra* of tyranny.

His Majesty has some dozen other kings whose duties are all analogous to the functions performed by the bodily organ after which they are named.

The costumes of the Darfourians present nothing very remarkable. The men wear turbans of calico and long robes, somewhat resembling caftans, but of a lighter make. The Sultan's turban is composed of a delicate cashmere shawl; and it would be death for any subject to wear a head-dress of similar material. The women's garments are of a scantiness that may be admirably suited to the climate, but which is not equally consistent with decency—that is to say, as the word is understood by Europeans. They are fond of highly ornamented head-dresses, and wear bracelets, earrings, and even noserings.

The habitations of the Darfourians are of the most primitive character. They are usually round, and are built of various kinds of rushes. In the centre of each hut, passing through the roof into the ground, stands a pole. A few inches or more of this pole are

visible through the roof, and this portion of it is frequently adorned with ostrich-eggs.

After what we have said about the surgical science of Darfour, the reader will not be astonished to hear that they have also excellent doctors. These doctors write prescriptions or charms for their patients just as they do in Europe. Only, instead of having the prescription "made up" at a druggist's (perhaps there are no druggists in Darfour), the patient steeps his prescription in water, and afterwards drinks the infusion.

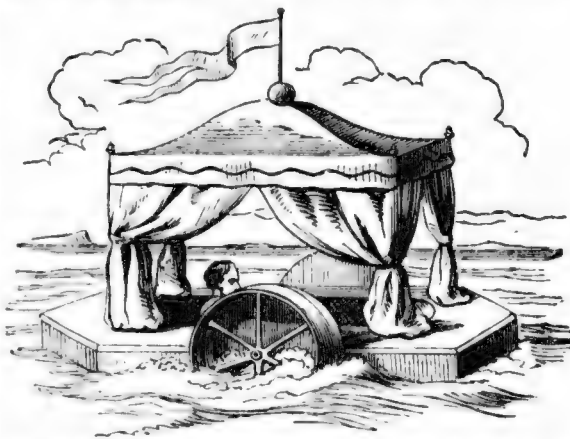
It is said that, after submitting to this treatment, patients very often get well, and that is all that can be said of any other therapeutic system. H. S. E.

A SUGGESTION FOR THE BATHING SEASON.

WHEN we have once turned our backs upon Christmas we begin to think of summer, and, thinking of summer, we naturally call up visions of the seaside and sea-bathing. Those of us who can swim (not a very large minority) are tolerably content to go out in an open boat a reasonable distance from shore, and take our bath in savage freedom. Others, more timid or more modest, get into rickety summer-houses on wheels, and are jolted down into the water in a most uncomfortable manner. Neither of these contrivances for getting a dip in the sea is worthy of our boasted civilisation, and it is surprising that no English speculative mechanicians have invented a floating-bath. We have slipper-baths, shower-baths, foot-baths, and body-baths in every variety; but nothing that a man can go out in on a river, a lake, or the sea, and use as a boat as well as a bathing-machine.

About thirty years ago a M. Dejardin invented a floating-bath which was tried successfully on the Seine, near Paris. It was called by the inventor "Baignoire flottante et insubmersible," but this title indicates only very partially the distinguishing features of the invention. Had M. Dejardin done no more than make a floating-bath also insubmersible, he would have done but little; but, besides being insubmersible, his structure was ambulatory, and was used both as a dipping and as a swimming bath. Its chief object was to combine exercise with bathing and to enable persons to bathe, even in the most exposed situations of rivers, with as much privacy as in their own houses.

The general construction of the bath is represented in the accompanying rough sketch.



The body of it consisted of a brass wire trough or car of a quadrangular form, with a wooden bottom, which was fashioned after the manner of a ship's bottom with a keel and prow. All round the rim of this car, and well secured to it by stout brass collars, there were courses of copper tubes, called by the inventor "floating cylinders," which served by their buoyancy to keep the whole apparatus afloat. Each set of tubes was divided into six compartments, which were hermetically sealed at both ends, so that if any one of these compartments got damaged the general security of the machinery might not be affected. From the rim of the bathing-car rose four pillars, which supported an elegant set of curtains. The locomotive power of the machine was derived from two small paddle-wheels, one on each side, which were turned by means of handles conveniently placed on the inside within reach of the bather. These wheels were independent of each other, and could be worked together or separately like oars. The least force—that even of a youth—was sufficient to work them, and to move the whole apparatus from one spot to another.

The rotation of the paddle-wheels, besides giving motion to the apparatus and furnishing healthy exercise to the bather, served to keep the water in which he was enveloped in a constant state of agitation. A bather making use of such a machine, even in the stillest water, would command the same benefits for which bathing in the sea or in running streams is so much recommended by physicians.

We never remember seeing any bathing-machine of this kind at any English watering-place, and we think, if a few were cheaply constructed for the current season, the experiment would prove remunerative to the enterprising maker.

A MULE AND DONKEY SHOW is announced to take place at the Agricultural Hall in the course of the ensuing month.

MILITARY AMENITIES.—The past few days have been quite uneventful to the army of the Potomac. Our lines are scarcely nearer the enemy than was their position at the close of the battle on Friday, more than a week ago. The troops on both sides, each behind their intrenchments, have kept up a desultory but useless fire, just sufficient to make it apparent that the respective works were not vacant. Both armies, in fact, have been enjoying the repose which was needed after the hard fighting and rapid marching of three weeks' campaigning from the banks of the Rapidan. To-day the silence is even more marked than before. The sound of a musket has scarcely been heard along the entire front. A few bluffs of artillery and the explosion of a shell or two high over the trees about the centre of the line, have been the only reminders this afternoon of the enemy's presence. Yesterday an order was issued by General Meade forbidding unauthorised communications with the enemy. The men on both sides have been holding intercourse with each other for interchange of newspapers and the barter of coffee and tobacco. In this way a great deal of mischief was likely to result, as information of vital importance is always apt to leak out. The opposing lines of rifle-pits, it must be borne in mind, are not a hundred yards apart—in some parts of the line much closer. For any portion of the body to be exposed the penalty is certain wounding, if not death. But the men are utterly weary of loading and firing. They have kept up this heavy skirmishing for days, and no visible advantage has been gained by either side. The fire gradually slackens. Officers become careless about urging the men to their work. A tacit and magnetic spell influences with equal power our own men and their mortal enemies. It is very curious. The combatants are entirely hidden from each other's sight. The last shot is fired, and the lull in the battle-storm is perfect. Adventurous spirits on both sides cautiously raise their heads above the earthworks. "How are you, Johnny?" "How are you, Yank?" are questions usually banded. "Won't you shoot?" says one. "No," says the other. "Well, we won't," chime in all, and immediately the parapets are swarmed with the men, who have been concealed and protected behind them. Out jump the fellows from the rifle-pits, and, putting down their guns, stretch their cramped forms upon the grass. Sharpshooters covertly slide down from their perches in the trees and loll about in utter abandon. Trade is quickly opened, and all sorts of commo-ities are exchanged. The men have been pleasure in their singular armistice, bantering each other sharply, and never overstepping the half-way line which separates their respective fortifications. Suddenly the cry is raised:—"Run back, Johnnies," or "Run back, Yanks," just as it happens to be: "we're going to shoot," and the hostilities begin again. It is always, understood, however, that the first shot shall be aimed high, and the veriest dandy gets back to shelter safely. While this fraternal scene is being enacted on one limited part of the line, the battle rages hotly at other portions of the extended front, which measures by miles. Was ever such a strange warfare known before?—Correspondence of the *New York Times*, from the Army of the Potomac (May 11).

THE WIMBLEDON RIFLE MEETING.
EVERYTHING has concurred to render the great rifle contest at Wimbledon this year the most successful that has yet taken place. The weather has been magnificent, the arrangements have been next to faultless, the attendance has been unusually large, the shooting has been excellent, and the spirit animating all present unexceptional.

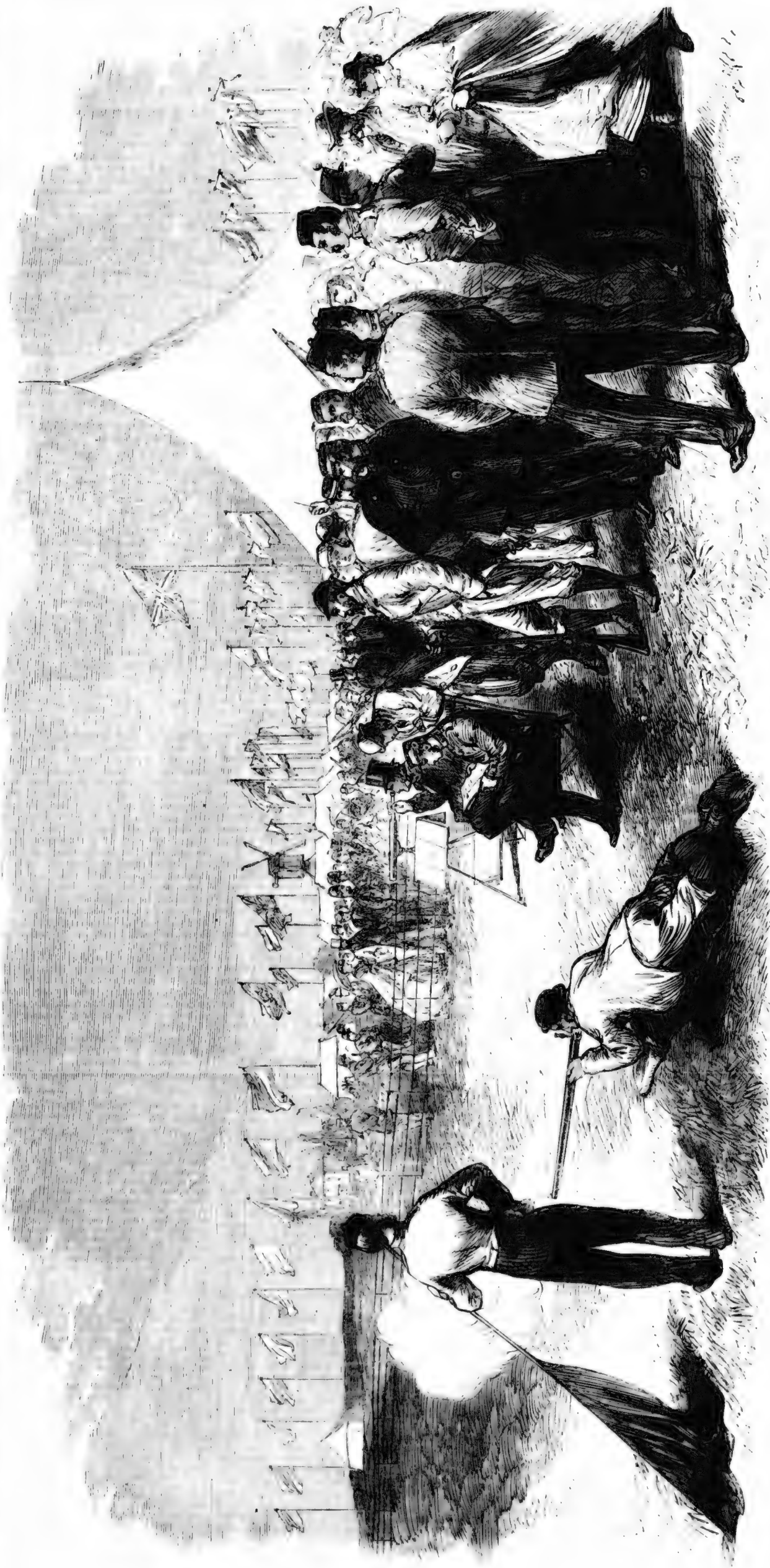
APPEARANCE OF THE HEATH.

The lions of the camp were well worth a visit even from ladies, who cannot be expected to feel any deep interest in the science of rifle-shooting; recomite as that has become in the successive stages of improvement

common, the butts in rear of the targets crowned the further side of the hollow and would be the highest objects within sight but for the distant range of wooded hills which form the background of the pleasing picture. The character of the scene varies at every hundred yards. The richest cultivation and the wildest plains alternate, and are, in fact, continuous with each other. Furze and rushes lie to the right, villas and shrubberies a little to the left; trimly-ranged marquees were dotted round the windmill in every direction; and across the central plateau, where the operations of the association were mainly carried on, a range of flagstaffs, planted in such a perfect line that one cannon-shot would bring them all to the ground, supported a many-coloured

through which it has passed. For instance, what could be more charming than the prospect from the hill in front of "Victoria-crescent"? From this point a view was commanded of the entire area (nearly three miles in width) upon which the association had settled down and thrown up its intrenchments. Far away on the extreme right, where the ground slopes towards the town of Putney, firing was going on and distinction and something more tangible won or lost at every shot. On the extreme left, where one end of the common approaches the town of Wimbledon, and then runs away in the direction of Robin Hood, the 1000 yards' range was equally in request. And along the intermediate space, in an irregular line, pretty much in the form of a crescent, following the course of the ravine which intersects the

wave of the flags of all nations. In addition to the animated scene here presented there were individual points worthy of notice, such as the valuable contents of the exhibition marquee, the garden improvised among the tent-ropes of an officer who delights in the perfume of sweet flowers; the "running deer" moving leisurely to all appearance, but really travelling a good ten miles an hour; the miniature Crystal Palace, which Mr. Jeannison, the refreshment contractor, had erected; and, last, the commercial avenue, or bazaar, in which everything needful for occupants of the camp, from rides and ammunition to "mufti" for running up to town, might be procured. The spectacle can hardly be spoken of as brilliant, for the volunteer uniform, as a rule, is dull; but the men who shoot, and shoot well.



THE WIMBLEDON MEETING: SHOOTING FOR COUNTY PRIZES.

could hardly make that complaint, as the association badges lightened up the sombre lints wonderfully.

COUNT DE GENDRE'S TELEGRAPHIC APPARATUS.

The novelty of the apparatus introduced under the auspices of the Count de Gendres for the purpose of enabling the firing party to maintain instant communication with the marker at the butts, by means of the electric telegraph, attracted numbers of spectators. The arrangement is of the simplest kind, and will be understood in a very few words. At the firing point is a small oak post about three feet high, from the base of which wires coated with gutta serena run to the protecting mantlet at

the other extremity of the range, inside of which, and quite under the control of the marker at the butts, is a small electric battery, a call-bell, or "alarm," and an interrupter for the purpose of breaking the electric current. As soon as the person about to fire is ready, a small button on the summit of the post is pressed down with the finger; this completes the electric circuit, and the bell at the butts immediately begins to ring; at the same time that a needle on the dial of the indicator fixed to the post is deflected, showing to the parties who have set the apparatus in motion that the bell is ringing to a certainty at the other end. In continues to do so till the marker in his turn presses his finger upon the brass knob of the interrupter, which breaks the electric circuit, stops the ringing of the bell

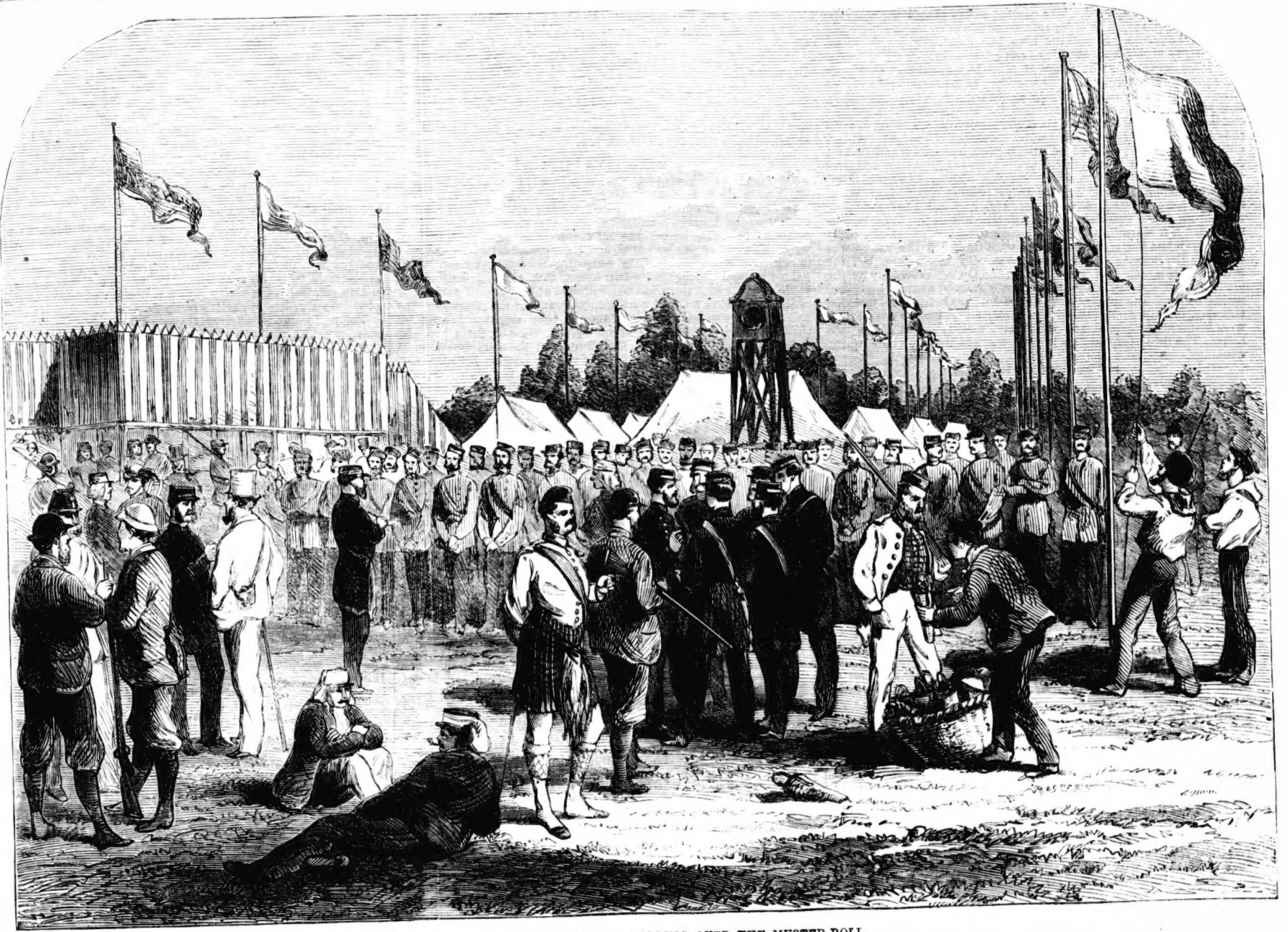
and the needle at the firing end of the range immediately resumes its vertical position. Both parties then know that all is ready and safe, and the shot is fired.

THE "OWL" PRIZE.

The mysterious Owl prize, and the conditions upon which the competition was to take place, formed a constant topic of conversation for a day or two after it was announced. Expectation was rather heightened than diminished by the publication of the following order:—
"Owl-shooting Extraordinary.—Oh, Yes! Oh, Yes! Take notice all! A prize of £50 has been given by the venerable the Owls of the Owl news-

paper, to be competed for on such terms as the council may fix. Out of consideration for the generous but benighted donors, the council have determined that the competition shall take place in the dark at the 200 pool targets. Lights, called owl's-eyes, will be substituted for the plates now used as bull's-eyes at these pools. Conditions.—Each competitor shall pay one shilling per shot, as at pool, and if the competitors do not appear in great numbers.

The moping owl will to the moon complain.
The prize, which will be in the form of a beautiful silver owl, shall be adjudged to the competitor who shall, by the end of the meeting, have made the greatest number of owl's-eyes—that is, who shall have



THE WIMBLEDON MEETING: CALLING OVER THE MUSTER-ROLL.

oftenest knocked out the owl's eye, or broken the glass by which it will be shaded."

On Saturday evening last, between nine and ten o'clock, the competition for the *Owl* prize was entered upon. There had been some natural apprehension that danger was inseparable from rifle-

shooting after dark, but a single glance at the range showed that there was one important safeguard which the nervous had entirely overlooked. The red lamp at night is a much more effective danger-signal than the red flag by day. Among the multitude of other objects, and in the pre-occupation of his own mind, a man in the

daytime may not notice that a flag which he believes to be lying down has suddenly been snatched up; but he must be negligent indeed if, firing at a light 200 yards off, the only object within view, he fails to see that another light different in colour has been shown beside or in front of the one at



DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES IN RUSSELL-SQUARE FOR CLEAN AND TIDY ROOMS.

which his piece is levelled. The council wisely placed the entrance fee high for this prize, in order that there might be no overcrowding at the firing points. Something over one hundred shots were fired on Saturday night, and the "owl's-eye" was broken twice—not a very large percentage; but then it must be remembered that there is no guide whatever to the marksman. If he once "gets on," in shooting phrase, he may continue easily enough to break the glass, shot after shot; but in the meantime his bullets may be drawing a circular pattern just round the glass, and there will be nothing to show that they did not lodge in the outer corners of the target. A very curious effect was produced when the glass was struck and broken. A cry of "Danger!" was raised at once, and the distance swarmed with red and white lights, which crawled like glow-worms about the embankments, their bearers being wholly invisible. When damages were repaired, and the markers had got back safely to their butts, there was a shout of "All right!" and the firing recommenced. Mr. Malcolm, M.P., undertook the direction of the party marking in the butts, and continued with them till the range was closed. For competitors the scene was very interesting, but the general public soon had enough of "The Owls," especially as the great heat of the day made those standing about at that hour feel rather chilly. The majority of lookers-on, in consequence, deserted this spot for the camp fires of the Victorias, where, as usual, they were hospitably received, and mirth and melody lasted till a late hour. The firing for the "Owl" prize was continued on subsequent evenings.

DIVINE SERVICE IN CAMP.

On Sunday Divine service was performed for the volunteers in the large tent on the common, and the Archbishop of York preached the sermon. The tent was decorated with flags, which were suspended from the top, reaching nearly to the ground. At one end of the tent a sort of dais was erected to serve the purposes of a reading-desk, and also for a pulpit. On the dais was placed a table, on which was a large drum, covered with a union jack. The hour for the commencement of Divine service was fixed for eleven o'clock, but long before that time the tent was taken possession of by a large number of ladies and gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood, so that really very little room was left for the accommodation of the volunteers, for whom the services had been specially provided. Such being the case, this state of affairs was brought under the notice of Lord Elcho, who addressed them, and said that he was extremely sorry to disturb them, but as the service was specially for volunteers he must beg others to withdraw and give place to them. This was at once willingly done, and soon afterwards the tent was filled by the Guards, volunteers, and the police on duty on the common, very little room being left for other persons. The Rev. T. Hanly Ball, lecturer of Wimbledon, read the prayers, after which hymns and the Old Hundredth Psalm were sung, being accompanied by the band of the London Scottish, under the direction of Mr. Macfarlane, the bandmaster. His Grace then commenced his sermon, taking his text from the 2nd Book of Kings, chap. ix., v. 18—"So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again." The right rev. prelate said the volunteers should remember they were soldiers of Christ as well as of the Queen. There were rumours of war floating in the air, but by the blessing of God he trusted that peace would be maintained, and that the only battle they would have to fight would be the battle of Christ, and against the enemy of mankind. The right rev. prelate enlarged his views upon this theme, which were listened to with the deepest attention. His Lordship pronounced the benediction, and the band of the London Scottish played the Hallelujah chorus as the different corps were being marched off the ground.

COUNTY MATCHES.

This was a very interesting match for riflemen belonging to county volunteer corps, in which ten competitors appeared, who fired five rounds each at 200 yards and at 500 yards. The following were the counties represented, and the total scores:—Staffordshire, 273; Gloucestershire, 266; Middlesex, 266; Norfolk, 262; Lancashire, 257; Warwickshire, 257; Midlothian, 255; Worcestershire, 249; Wiltshire, 247; Kent, 243; Herefordshire, 241; Nottinghamshire, 240; Berkshire, 233; Derbyshire retired after making 128 only at the 200 yards range.

MATCH BETWEEN THE LORDS AND COMMONS.

The contest for precedence in rifle-shooting between the Lords and Commons, once regarded as a joke, but now a competition enlisting earnest efforts on the part of members of either branch of the legislature, and honoured with the presence of Royalty itself, took place on Monday at Wimbledon. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Captain Grey and the Hon. Mrs. Stonor, arrived about three o'clock, and were immediately conducted to the marquee erected for their accommodation at the 200 yards' range. Irrespective of the lords and gentlemen concerned in the contest there was a distinguished party assembled at the firing-point. In the composition of the respective elevens there was a considerable difference. The representatives of the House of Commons were, without exception, men in the prime of life. The Lords, on the contrary, ranged over the wide extremes between Lord Vernon, the father of English rifle-shooting, and Lord Eldon, only last year a competitor at Wimbledon on behalf of Eton. Lord Ducie, the captain of the peers, was exceedingly fortunate in his eleven this time, and it was evident that, taking warning by their defeat of last year, they had trained carefully in the present instance to sustain the honour of their order. The following were the representatives of the two branches of the Legislature:—**Lords:** The Marquis of Abercorn, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Airlie, Lord Bolton, Lord Dufferin, Earl Spencer, the Earl of Ducie, the Earl of Eldon, Viscount Lismore, Lord Suffield, Lord Vernon. **Commons:** Lord Bury, Lord Grosvenor, Captain Wyndham, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Forster, Mr. Duncombe, Lord Elcho (Captain), Mr. Dillwyn, Mr. Vivian, Mr. Malcolm, Mr. Humberston.

The shooting on both sides was remarkably good, but the victory was ultimately gained by the members of the Upper House, the total scores being—Lords, 468; Commons, 428.

As soon as it was known that the Commons had been defeated by a majority of 40 marks, Lord Elcho assembled his forces, and said that when in 1862 the Lords were victorious the Commons had cheered them heartily. Last year the Commons won, but they had not been cheered. Now it was their turn to lose again, and he was very glad they had done so, because it kept alive the interest and the chances of the struggle. It was true that the Lords—the shooting Lords, of course—were suspected of dining punctually at eight every evening, and always going to bed at nine. But nevertheless, their Lordships should not accuse them of want of courtesy, and he therefore begged to propose three cheers for the House of Lords and "bad luck to them next time." When the cheering and laughter excited by this address had subsided, Lord Ducie proposed return cheers for the House of Commons, wishing them better fortune in the next contest.

INTERNATIONAL ENFIELD CONTEST.

The International Enfield contest began at an early hour on Monday. Twenty representatives of England and as many competitors from Scotland paraded in front of the council tent, and proceeded to fire seven shots each at the three appointed ranges. Both sides felt confident of victory at the outset, and the Scotch squad seemed especially formidable, but, by one of those freaks of fortune which occasionally happen, three of their best shots—the Master of Lovat, Lieutenant Mackenzie, and Dr. Bruce—failed to make anything like a respectable score, and victory accordingly declared for the English side by a majority of 53. The vanquished found some consolation in reflecting that one of their men, Ensign Lockhart, gained 64 marks, the highest score by several marks that was made in this contest.

THE CHANCELLORS' CHALLENGE PLATE.

The competition for the Chancellor's challenge plate, value £100, which, this year for the first time, is presented by the Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Derby for annual competition between the volunteers of the Oxford and Cambridge University Corps, was also shot for on Monday, and would have excited greater interest but for the other engrossing contests of the day. Even as it was, there was a very fair attendance of lookers on. Cambridge won easily at all the ranges, the following being the final state of the score:—Cambridge, 415; Oxford, 371.

THE QUEEN'S PRIZE.

On Tuesday there were two events of main interest to the public apart from those results affecting the general body of volunteers. These were the issue of the contest for the Queen's prize and the match for the Ashburton shield between the representatives of the public schools. The former was not decided until close upon the hour when the evening gun was fired, and the excitement connected with it was something unusual, in consequence of the rumour, which gained general circulation for two hours, that Colonel Halford had made a score which there was no likelihood of beating. Twenty-four of the competitors retired from the contest, and of the remainder who had to fire it was believed that, though they might strive among themselves for the honour of second place, none of them had any chance of winning. Great, therefore, was the surprise when it became known that Private Wyatt, of the 1st London Rifle Brigade, had first equalled and then beaten by one point the capital score of the Colonel of the Leicester regiment. As soon as the contest had finally concluded, Mr. Wyatt was caught up and borne towards the council-tent on the shoulders of his friends, cheering lustily as they carried him in, additional zest being added to their victory by the fact that it was gained over one of the most distinguished rifle-shots in England. As the procession neared the offices of the association a carriage was perceived close at hand, containing, by a fortunate coincidence, the Colonel of the London Rifle Brigade and Lady Warde. The successful competitor was at once carried in the direction of his commanding officer, and in the same flattering but somewhat unsteady seat he received the congratulations to which his performance well entitled him. He was then whisked off to the council-tent, to comply with the usual formalities, and was ultimately borne away in triumph to the quarters of his regiment in the associated camp.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS MATCH.

The Public Schools match was shot at the extreme northern ranges, rather an unfortunate arrangement as far as spectators were concerned, who had no tramway in that direction to save them a toilsome walk under a sun hotter by many degrees than on any former day of the meeting. But there was no help for it. The school elevens were unable to attend on the day originally suggested for their competition, and on Tuesday the long-range firing for the second stage of the Queen's prize closed all the ranges at the nearer side of the common at which it would otherwise have been possible to hold the match. In the end, Harrow was again the conqueror, and the rejoicings over its victory were loud and long. Its triumph over Cheltenham, however, was not very signal, consisting only of a majority of eight on the total score. Its great rival, Eton, made 202 marks as against 226. The schools represented and the total scores made were as follow:—Harrow, 226; Marlborough, 185; Winchester, 189; Rugby, 205; Cheltenham, 218; and Eton, 202. It is a noteworthy feature of these public school matches that on one of the beaten sides there is usually a competitor who shoots better individually than any other member either of the victorious eleven or any of the others. In the present instance Corporal Thornton, of Cheltenham, made a score which was unapproached by any one, except Lieutenant Langhorne, of Rugby. In the subsequent competition for Earl Spencer's cup between the best shots of each of the respective elevens, which was won by Corporal Thornton, this superiority was even more clearly seen.

Numerous other prizes have been competed for during the week; but our limited space precludes our giving particulars of all the events decided.

MR. HERBERT WATKINS'S ALBUM OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

MR. HERBERT WATKINS, himself a volunteer, and, we believe, a non-commissioned officer in the Artists' corps, has presented a large album, filled with many choice specimens of photography, to be shot for at Wimbledon this week. The lucky marksman who carries it off will, in our opinion, have little reason to envy any of his fellow-prizemen—always excepting the winner of the "blue ribbon of the butts," the championship.

The first half of this very handsome volume—bound in a gorgeous cover designed by no less skilful an artist than Luke Sumner, is devoted to subjects immediately connected with the volunteer movement and the Wimbledon meetings. Lord Elcho's likeness, a very characteristic portrait, fills the first page, and is followed by the portraits of the four champion shots—Captain Ross, Private Jopling, Sergeant Pixley, and Sergeant Roberts. The second of these, by-the-way, is a capital picture, apart from its excellence as a likeness. To these succeed numerous groups of the staff, the eight, the Queen's prize winners, and squads from most of the metropolitan corps.

The difficulties Mr. Watkins has had to contend against are considerable, but he has met them with very fair success, which is the more creditable, because he has conscientiously abstained from any touching, trimming, or doctoring of the pictures. What we see is the honest production of the photographic art. Many of the views of the camp and the butts are most happily selected. The Victorias, as they deserve, are fully represented in their camp and under march. Colonel M'Murdo, Captain Mildmay, and others, whose names are household words among the riflemen, have due places of honour awarded, and the collection of pictures illustrative of the progress and the pioneers of the movement is very valuable, and will no doubt be thoroughly appreciated by the fortunate man whose keen sight and steady nerve win it.

The remainder of the volume is filled with pictures of more general interest; amongst these, however, mainly sports have the lion's share. There are views of Henley and the racing eights, of Hornsey Wood and the pigeon handicap, and of Epsom Downs and the Derby start.

Some photographs of Cardiff and the Bute Docks we consider excellent specimens of the art, and a dozen or two of portraits of celebrities—artistic, literary, political, and dramatic—offer a sufficient diversity to satisfy the most varied taste. Of these we would, however, specially mention with high praise a series of studies of Ristori, in her great characters. A capital sitter has evidently met with a capital artist in this instance, and the result is a set of pictures full of force and grace, photographed with remarkable taste and skill.

The album contains 118 photographs in all, is splendidly bound, and, altogether, is a very handsome prize; and Mr. Watkins deserves the thanks of the Rifle Association for the spirited and generous manner in which, as a private individual, he has supported the object of the meeting.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW AT NEWCASTLE.—The meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which commenced last week, has been one of the most successful witnessed for some years, if due allowance be made for the locality and its distance from the southern and central portions of the kingdom. The show of stock was one of surpassing excellence, and that of implements was very little behind it. The trial of steam implements naturally excited a great deal of interest. The scene of the operations was on the farm of Mr. Jamieson, Barton, near the town of Newcastle. The field was well chosen to test the working power of the implements. The competitors were Messrs. Garrett and Son, Mr. John Fowler, Messrs. Howard, Messrs. Coleman, Mr. Savoy, Mr. Collinson Hall, and Messrs. Richardson. The latter, however, simply put in an appearance but did not work. In addition to the steam implements, there were seven-ton swing-ploughs, thirty wheel-ploughs, five subsoil-ploughs, and five diggers.

THE OPERAS.

MR. MAPLESON has brought, or is just bringing, a most successful season to a conclusion. Indeed, the season at both Opera Houses is likely to have a brilliant ending; and Mr. Mapleson, to all appearances, will cease to play "Mirella" just as it will have reached the height of its success. Hitherto that truly poetical but not strikingly impressive work has gone on steadily increasing in public favour. Its beauties do not, so to say, lie on the surface, as in those operas whose entire attraction consists in a few pieces which stand out in prominent relief because everything else has been sacrificed to them, or, worse still, because it has been thought necessary to introduce them for the sake of the music-publishers. The music of "Mirella" possesses, to a remarkable degree, what is called "colour." The composer has really given to each part the colouring and character of the personage who has to sing it, and the whole work suggests southern France through its melodies almost as forcibly as a landscape of Calame's suggests Switzerland. The music of "Mirella," like all good music, "grows" upon the hearer; but, properly considered, the whole opera cannot fail to be appreciated from the very first. It must be listened to as a consistent musical poem, and not as a collection of airs and concerted pieces more or less attractive in themselves.

The performances at Her Majesty's Theatre now take place at reduced prices, the subscription-season being already at an end.

Meyerbeer's "Etoile du Nord" is to be produced to-night at the Royal Italian Opera, with Mde. Miolan-Carvalho in the part of the heroine, with Neri-Baraldi as Giorgio, Naudin as Danilowitz, Ciampi as Gritzenko (Lablache's old character), and Faure as Peter—whom we can scarcely bring ourselves to call "Pietro." The minor parts, in which this opera abounds, will be sustained by Mlle. Brunetti, who appears for the first time in England; Mde. Rudersdorf, and Mlle. Jenny Bauer, and by MM. Tagliafico, Polonini, Capponi, Lucchesi, &c.

"L'Etoile du Nord," as Mr. Gye's advertisement informs us, has only been performed seven times in England. "It may, therefore," we are told, "be almost regarded as a new work in this country." It may also be regarded as an old work, on the ground that it was brought out at the Royal Italian Opera nine years ago, when, as it was played seven times (no small number for one season), it must have been heard by many thousand persons. The great majority of Mr. Gye's subscribers must be well acquainted with the opera now presented to them with so much naïveté as "almost new," though we certainly do not say that for that reason they will not be glad to meet with it again on the boards of a theatre where it is sure to be admirably performed. It is, moreover, true that Mr. Gye has had to provide new scenery and dresses for the "Etoile du Nord," but this he would have had to do if he had resolved to bring out "Semiramide" or any other work which has not been played at the Royal Italian Opera since the rebuilding of the theatre. In fine, an opera is not new simply because Mr. Gye has to buy new scenery for it.

But admitting that "L'Etoile du Nord" will be new to those who have not heard it before (which may also be said of "Don Giovanni," the "Barber of Seville," and a few other very old friends to us) is Mr. Gye right in describing it as a "grand historical opera"? It is, in the first place, a "comic opera" in the French sense of the expression, and was written, as every one knows, for the Opéra Comique of Paris. It is rather serious in many parts, we admit; and we cannot say that it is anywhere very lively or in the slightest degree laughable. But, in spite of the highly complicated finale to the second act, it is not designed after the model of grand operas; and although Mr. Gye will put it on the stage in grand style, it will even then be grand only in a scenic sense. Indeed, it was the attempt to convert a charming opéra comique into a grand opera, as far as that object can be accomplished, by substituting recitative for spoken dialogue, that made the "Etoile du Nord" of the Royal Italian Opera in 1855 so much heavier than the "Etoile du Nord" of the Opéra Comique. We confess to a very mournful recollection of the third act, in which the recitative, however admirable in itself, at last becomes wearisome from its inordinate length. We seldom feel much interested in what the characters in an opéra comique have to say to one another between the musical pieces; but they at least say it quickly if they are allowed to speak it. When they are made to sing in recitative their communications, unless kept very much within bounds, soon grow tedious; and this is just what happens, or used to happen—as far, at least, as regards us—in the third act of the Covent Garden version of Meyerbeer's "Etoile du Nord." To the question, then, whether "L'Etoile du Nord" is a grand opera, we can only reply that it is not; and that we wish Meyerbeer had not given it something of the appearance of one by turning its long dialogue into interminable recitative. It was necessary, of course, to add a certain amount of recitative, inasmuch as the Italians (with great propriety) do not use the speaking voice in opera; but it seems to us that, for the sake of the work itself, and for the sake of the public, as little as possible should have been introduced. All that was wanted to satisfy art, and, at the same time, not to dissatisfy the audience, was just so much as would have made the work intelligible in a dramatic point of view without rendering it tedious in a musical one.

If Mr. Gye is not quite right in calling "L'Etoile du Nord" a grand opera, in styling it an "historical opera" he is altogether wrong. Peter the Great's drunkenness is a matter of history, so also is his illegal union with a vivandière named Catherine (his first wife being still alive at the time), so also is the fact that the founder of the Menschchikoff family (operated under the name Danilowitz) sold pies. But an Emperor's getting intoxicated ought scarcely to be called an historical incident, historical though, in point of fact, it may be. It, at least, does not possess what used to be called the dignity of history; while the circumstances of Peter's union with Catherine, as presented in the opera, are not only unhistorical but altogether anti-historical. "L'Etoile du Nord" is called an historical opera with about as much reason as Mr. Macfarren's "Charles II." might be in consideration of its hero being an historical personage, or Mr. Balfe's "Bohemian Girl" on the ground that one of the principal airs in that work contains an absurd allusion to the partition of Poland.

"L'Etoile du Nord," however, has become historical in one sense; a place belongs to it, as to "Robert," "The Huguenots," "The Prophet," and "Dinorah," in the history of modern opera; and already, though it appears so "new" to Mr. Gye, it cannot be performed without reminding us of the losses the opera has sustained during the nine years that have elapsed since its first production. Mde. Miolan-Carvalho is a charming singer, and Signor Ciampi is not by any means a bad buffo; but we should think better of both if in the parts now assigned to them we had not heard Bosio and Lablache.

DEATH OF LORD WOOD.—Mr. Alexander Wood, of Woodcot, better known by the title of Lord Wood, which he bore for twenty years, died on Monday at his residence at Woodcot Park, Haddingtonshire. He was born in Edinburgh, called to the Scotch Bar in 1811, appointed Crown Counsel in 1825, Steward of Kirkcudbright in 1830, elected Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1841, and next year appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Session, under the title of Lord Wood. In 1843 he was also made one of the Lords Commissioners of Justiciary. After twenty years on the Bench, Lord Wood retired in 1862.

THE HARVEST IN THE HOME COUNTIES.—Harvest operations have now commenced in earnest in the counties of Middlesex, Berks, Bucks, and Surrey, and within the next three weeks a great portion of the grain crop will have fallen beneath the sickle. The dry weather which has lately prevailed has hastened the ripening of the wheat, which within the last two or three days has wonderfully improved in appearance and quality, though in places it has been much scorched by the sun. Some wheat has already been cut, while a large quantity of rye is down. The latter crop being extremely forward in the valley of the Thames. Barley and oats, owing to the long-continued drought, are very short in the straw, and are ripening off fast, though the yield is expected to be rather light. Pears have also suffered greatly from the heat, and a crop below the average must be the result. With regard to potatoes, though many fields of the early varieties were almost destroyed by the severe frosts which occurred late in the spring, no complaints have as yet been heard of blight. The pastures are sadly in need of rain, and now present a parched and arid appearance. The fruit crop is a good one, and the trees in the market-gardens are loaded with apples, plums, and other fruit.

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